

Bonn confirms 7 Germans kidnapped in Yemen

BONN (AFP) — The German Foreign Ministry confirmed Wednesday that kidnappers demanding \$7 million ransom had abducted seven German motorists in southeastern Yemen. A German embassy official from Sanaa was heading for the site, where police had encircled the unidentified kidnappers, a ministry spokesman said. Yemeni authorities had said earlier that the tourists were kidnapped in the Gulf of Aden city of Mukalla. Yemeni tribes often resort to kidnappings to obtain compensation or concessions from the government. Officially the police have never given in to their demands. Around 80 foreigners have been kidnapped by tribes since 1993, but all the hostages have been freed unharmed. Five Polish tourists were kidnapped in late December and freed in early January.

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Kinkel reaffirms EU and German support for Jordan

German foreign minister to urge Israel to reconsider settlement decision, criticises its closure order against Palestinian offices

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel on Wednesday reaffirmed the importance the European Union and Germany attach to Jordan's key role in the Middle East and reiterated that both the EU and Germany would also continue to support the Kingdom with material assistance. Speaking at a press conference shortly before he flew by helicopter to Jericho after a 24-hour visit, Mr. Kinkel said he would urge Israel to reconsider plans to build a Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem.

"I will make clear in my talks with the Israelis that the Israeli government

should reconsider its decision," Mr. Kinkel said.

Germany supports the European Union's rejection of any change in East Jerusalem which might undermine confidence between Israelis and Palestinians, said the minister, who spoke in German through an interpreter.

One of Germany's overall approach to the Middle East peace process is a realisation that the living conditions of the people of the region have to improve as a result of the peace process and this philosophy is behind Bonn's aid to the countries of the region, said Mr. Kinkel, who held talks with His Majesty King Hussein. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul

Karim Kabariti.

He said Germany was ready to consider financing for water projects called for in the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty of October 1994 but that it was up to the two countries to "make the conditions suitable for financing."

The foreign minister, who was accompanied by a delegation of 15 business executives representing large and medium-size German companies, said he had handed over a list of 15 projects of German interest to the King. He did not give details.

He noted that the business delegation held talks with Crown Prince Hassan as well as Jordanian businessmen on potential for Jordanian-German economic

cooperation.

Germany attaches high importance to Jordan's role in the region and Arab-Israeli peacemaking as well as its contributions that advanced the peace process, he said.

He said Germany was committed to supporting Jordan and its economy and that total German aid to the Kingdom in the last 14 years was about two billion marks (about \$1.2 billion).

Jordan's debts to Germany stand at 900 million marks (\$540 million), and Peter Diggins, a senior foreign ministry official accompanying Mr. Kinkel said the German government had offered a "debt relief" of 80 million marks

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday receives the crown prince of Qatar, Sheikh Jassem Ben Hamad Al Thani (photo by Yousef Allan)

King and Qatari crown prince discuss regional developments, peace process and bilateral ties

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Jassem Ben Hamad Al Thani on Wednesday held talks on bilateral relations and other international and regional issues of common concern.

The talks, also covered upon the peace process and the latest developments in the Middle East.

King Hussein briefed the Qatari prince on the Jordanian role in the region and reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to efforts for a

just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region.

The King also reaffirmed Jordan's stand against all obstacles that hinder the peace process and the Kingdom's rejection of any change to the character of Jerusalem until the Palestinian-Israeli final status negotiations on the Holy City.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Faisal and Prince Abdul

Karim Kabariti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, King's adviser for tribal affairs Hmeidi Al Fayed, Minister of Higher Education Abdullah Ensour, Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Majali, and Jordanian Ambassador to Qatar Trad Al Fayed.

On the Qatari side, the meeting was attended by Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani, Minister of State for

(Continued on page 7)

Crown Prince leaves for London

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday left for London on a several-day working visit to take part in a conference on new economic opportunities in the Mediterranean which will be held there on March 6-7.

Prince Hassan's participation is part of his efforts to bring together the 12 Mediterranean countries and the European Union in order to promote investment opportunities in the Mediterranean region.

The Crown Prince's visit comes in reply to an invitation from British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind.

Accompanying Prince Hassan were Their Royal Highnesses Princess Sarvath and Princess Rahmeh.

They were seen off at the airport by His Majesty King Hussein. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Prince Faisal, Royal family members, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the King's adviser for Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Khatib Tamimi, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi, Speaker of the Lower

(Continued on page 7)

Palestinians vow to resist closure of Jerusalem offices

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians vowed to resist Israeli orders Wednesday to close four institutions in Arab East Jerusalem which Israel claims are illegal branches of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"The offices will not be closed because they don't have anything to do with the Palestinian National Authority," said Saeb Erekat, Palestinian minister for local affairs and a chief negotiator with Israel.

In the latest of a series of controversial actions designed to solidify Israel's hold on the occupied sector of the Holy City, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Tuesday that he was ordering the offices closed on grounds they were official branches of the PNA and thus operated in Arab East Jerusalem in violation of the Oslo peace accords.

French Foreign Minister

Herve De Charette sharply challenged Israel's authority to carry out the plans to close the Palestinian institutions.

"The Israelis do not have the right to take such action, which would not contribute to creating a favourable climate for the peace process," Mr. De Charette said after meeting with Palestinian officials at the end of a two-day visit to Israel and Arab East Jerusalem.

The French diplomat said Mr. Netanyahu's decisions to force the closure of the Palestinian offices and to build a new Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem "contravene the letter and the spirit" of the Oslo accords on autonomy.

Mr. De Charette reiterated that France, like virtually all governments, has never recognised Israel's annexation of the eastern sector of the city.

"These two decisions are

negative signals following the hope created by the Hebron agreement" reached between Israelis and Palestinians on Jan. 15 to relaunch their peace process, he said.

Mr. De Charette said he had found his Palestinian interlocutors "very angry and very worried" by the Israeli actions. Among those who met with the French diplomat were Faisal Hussein, the top PLO official in Arab East Jerusalem, and deputies to the elected Palestinian legislative council.

Israeli police issued warning letters Wednesday telling the four Palestinian institutions to halt operations within four days. "They can close them by themselves, or otherwise the police will close them in 96 hours," said police spokeswoman Linda Menuchin.

(Continued on page 7)

Kuwait media say Sheikh Saad doing well after bleeding

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah is in good condition in hospital after fainting due to internal bleeding, local media reports said on Wednesday.

Sheikh Saad, born in 1930, fell on Tuesday evening and suffered "slight bruises," a senior member of the Al Sabah ruling family told Reuters. "Thank God his highness is in a good condition."

A Western diplomatic source said "I think he fainted due to a bleeding ulcer...We are not sure if the bleeding was in the stomach or in the colon."

Kuwait's Al Qabas newspaper said Sheikh Saad "suffered minor bleeding in the colon which does not call for concern. Doctors advised his highness to stay overnight at hospital to complete (medical) checks."

Al Seyassah daily said Sheikh Saad, heir apparent and prime minister since 1978, suffered from "sudden stomach bleeding."

Hours prior to his hospitalisation, Sheikh Saad received officials from Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Later the emiri court issued a statement saying Sheikh Saad was taken to hospital after a "sudden indisposition." It said his condition was "extremely reassuring."

Sheikh Saad, born in 1930, was at the airport on Monday with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to receive Congo's President Pascal Lissouba.

Sheikh Saad, educated in Kuwait and at Britain's Hendon Police Training School, has steered the government through turbulent times at home and abroad.

He started his career with Kuwait's police in 1945, becoming chief of police

(Continued on page 7)

Israeli posters demand Mordechai as premier

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's fractious governing coalition faced a new embarrassment Wednesday with the appearance of street posters calling for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to be replaced by his popular defence minister.

"Benjamin Netanyahu has failed, Yitzhak Mordechai for prime minister," read the posters plastered around west Jerusalem streets, including Mr. Netanyahu's own residential neighbourhood.

The posters were signed by a hitherto unknown group calling itself Citizens for Yitzhak Mordechai, a former top army general who only joined Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party shortly before last year's national elections but quickly became one of the most popular figures in government.

The Israeli press has reported recent tensions between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Mordechai because of the defence minister's growing popularity and reticence to implement some of the prime minister's more provocative decisions concerning the

expansion of Jewish settlement in Palestinian territories.

Mr. Mordechai also angered right-wing hardliners with his strong support for Israel's January withdrawal from most of the West Bank city of Hebron.

Mr. Mordechai's office issued an angry protest over the anonymous poster campaign. "Defence Minister Mordechai distances himself from and is disgusted by actions such as these," the statement said.

"The defence minister ... calls upon all members of Likud and its supporters to stand unified behind the prime minister," it said.

Likud spokesmen denied any party links to the posters, and some officials suggested they were actually the work of right-wing extremists out to undermine Mr. Mordechai's position in government.

Security was stepped up around Mr. Mordechai following a string of death threats that followed the Hebron withdrawal.

my resignation. My decision was strictly work-related," Mr. Madadha said.

"It was the autocratic and centralised method in which the prime minister handles the foreign ministry which has forced me to resign," he added.

"I did not intend to comment publicly on the reasons for my resignation," he said, "but the fact that Minister of Education Abdullah Ensour and Minister of Information Marwan Muasher cited

"family reasons" has forced me to go on the record with the real motives for my resignation."

In a brief comment to the Jordan Times, Dr. Muasher

said that "Mr. Madadha handed in his resignation for family reasons," while Dr. Ensour told the Arabic daily Al Ra'i that "purely personal motives" lay behind it.

In his statement to Al Ra'i, Dr. Ensour was quoted as saying that Mr. Madadha's resignation "had nothing to do with the government's policy or political programme."

"Mr. Madadha has his own private family affairs," the minister said.

As Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti himself already holds the foreign affairs' portfolio, analysts and informed sources have told the Jordan Times a new

minister of state does not have to be appointed to replace Mr. Madadha.

They suggested that his post will be left vacant until the next cabinet reshuffle, widely expected to take place in April, after His Majesty King Hussein's return from his official visit to the U.S. late March.

With the possibility of the next general elections being held in September, the April's reshuffle would come in line with constitutional provisions stipulating that any cabinet member intending to run for Parliament should resign from his ministerial post at least three months before the elections.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Home of Dar Al Bir is recruiting substitute mothers to care for the children at Dar Al Bir within the following qualifications:

- 25-45 years old
- Holder of a university degree or diploma or Tawjihi
- Has the heart and the will to work with orphaned children

BENEFITS:

- Good monthly salary
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- Annual and weekly leaves
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SEND APPLICATIONS WITH:

- Detailed curriculum vitae
- Recent passport photograph
- One copy of family ID card (بغتر عائلية)
- Full address and telephone number

TO THE OFFICE OF:

HRH Princess Zein Bint Al-Hussein,
Royal Palace, Amman.

Iraq urges China, France and Russia to oppose Ekeus

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq called Wednesday for China, France and Russia to challenge the head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Iraqi disarmament over his accusations against Baghdad.

"These countries must emerge from their silence and demand the truth about the questionable reports submitted by the mercenary (Rolf) Ekeus, whose goal is to perpetuate the embargo," imposed by the United Nations on Iraq in 1990 after it invaded Kuwait, the official Al Jumhuriya newspaper said.

On Monday, the U.N. Security Council extended the embargo after a report from Mr. Ekeus who accused Iraq of continuing to hide biological and chemical weapons, including deadly nerve gas which could threaten Baghdad's neighbours.

Al Jumhuriya said Security Council permanent members China, France and Russia "bear a large

share of the responsibility in the renewal of the sanctions against Iraq."

It said "they must oppose Ekeus's diabolical game by demanding that he show tangible evidence to back up his accusations" against Iraq, which accuses the UNSCOM chief of collaborating with Washington to keep the sanctions in place.

Mr. Ekeus also said at the United Nations that his weapons inspectors had been unable to confirm the destruction of a total of 3,800 kilograms of VX gas.

He told the council that Iraq disclosed last October it had built up the stocks of VX gas, "the most dangerous of all chemical warfare agents," during the 1980s.

Iraq maintained that "all the 3,800 kilograms were destroyed in secrecy, after the Gulf war" in 1991, Mr. Ekeus told journalists. He added that despite an Iraqi government decision to release for analysis Iraqi missile engines after block-

ing the remnants in Iraq for three months, UNSCOM had been unable to account for all missiles which Baghdad claims to have destroyed unilaterally.

"The silence of France, China and Russia before the sanctions' renewal every two months makes them accomplices," said Al Jumhuriya, leaving out the United States and Britain which are strong supporters of maintaining the embargo.

Al Thawra, the mouthpiece of the ruling Baath Party, accused the UNSCOM chief of "lying" and making "political statements which have nothing to do with his technical mission."

The oil embargo against Iraq can only be lifted when UNSCOM certifies its arms of mass destruction and missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres have been eliminated along with the potential to build more.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat laughs with Congressman Gary Ackerman during a visit to the Capitol Hill offices of Congressman Lee Hamilton on Tuesday (Reuters photo)

Hundreds line up to fete Arafat at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Hundreds of U.N. diplomats and members of the Palestinian community in New York lined up for 90 minutes Tuesday to shake hands with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

"I've never seen anything like this," said a veteran U.S. diplomat during the overflowing reception at the U.N. delegates' dining room hosted by Palestine's permanent observer to the

United Nations, Nasser Al Kidwa.

A Palestinian visitor from Ramallah created a stir by chanting in Arabic at the top of his voice a specially composed poem as his turn came in the reception line to greet the Palestinian president.

The Palestinian, Mohammad Ramieh, told AFP that the poem praised Mr. Arafat's peace achievements.

The poem called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to "be strong, like Arafat," in the name of peace, Mr. Ramieh said.

But Arab journalists translated the comment as: "Netanyahu is a coward," or as "Netanyahu is Satan."

The poem was greeted by loud cheers and applause by Arabs standing nearby.

European politicians snub Turkish membership hopes

BRUSSELS (R) — Turkey was given the bluntest notice to date on Tuesday that it would be locked out of the European Union (EU) as leading EU politicians spoke out firmly against its membership.

"Senior politicians... said there had been consensus at a meeting of the mainly Christian Democrat European People's Party (EPP) that Turkey was not qualified to join.

"Turkey is not a candidate to become a member of the European Union, short-term or long," former Belgian Prime Minister and EPP President Wilfried Martens said.

He said the meeting — which had included German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar and Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi — had expressed a desire for a close relationship with Ankara.

But membership of the EU was not on the cards. "We want the closest cooperation possible but we are building a European Union," Mr. Martens said.

Others were less blunt, but still indicated that Ankara was a long way from seeing

its dream of full integration into Europe fulfilled.

"It was unanimous against Turkish membership," Mr. Prodi told Italian reporters. "But Turkey is an important country — not just militarily but economically."

Mr. Prodi said Mr. Kohl had also told the meeting that Turkey could not become a member of the EU.

EU sources said the issue had been raised at the meeting because Turkey, which has threatened to block North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) enlargement unless it is allowed into the EU, had been putting huge pressure on EU governments over the past week or so.

Portuguese opposition leader Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa said the meeting had refused to bow to Turkish threats.

"One idea that dominated this meeting was a commitment not to accept blackmail whatsoever," he told Portuguese reporters.

He said the political leaders had doubts about Turkey's commitment to human rights. "Human rights are very far from being respected in Turkey. It

doesn't make sense to accept a country that doesn't respect them," he said.

The move is likely to infuriate Ankara, which is already sensitive about comments earlier this year from Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo that there were unspoken questions in the EU about bringing in a large Muslim state.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker and others, however, emphasised that the EU should have a special relationship with Turkey and should provide various aid packages that have been promised to Ankara. Some aid has been blocked by the European Parliament because of human rights concerns.

Turkey signed an association agreement with what is now the European Union in 1963 and formally applied to join the bloc in 1987. The European Commission later ruled that Turkey was not ready on economic and democratic grounds.

Since then, a stream of Central and Eastern European countries have overtaken Turkey in the queue to join the EU and Ankara has put pressure on the bloc to accept its application.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Coptic leader urges front against settlement

CAIRO (AFP) — The head of the Coptic Christian Church, Pope Shenouda III, called in statements published Wednesday for a united Arab front to counter what he said were attempts by Israel to "Judaize" Jerusalem. "The practice of denunciations does not affect Israeli decisions to build settlements" in Arab East Jerusalem, Pope Shenouda said, according to the government daily Al Ahran. "It is necessary to take a united Arab position to confront Israeli measures to Judaize Jerusalem," he said, warning that an uprising could break out in reaction to Israeli moves.

Arab-Israeli crime fighter killed

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Arab-Israeli crime fighter Suleiman Mushrawi has been shot dead outside his home in the Tel Aviv suburb of Jaffa, police said Wednesday. They said a gunman fired through the window of Mushrawi's car as he drove up to his house Tuesday night. The 43-year-old father of five crawled to the sidewalk where he finally collapsed. Mushrawi was reportedly involved in a violent argument earlier the same day with former Palestinian collaborators with Israeli security forces who moved to Jaffa after their home towns came under Palestinian self-rule. Police said they believed some of the collaborators were involved in his murder and they arrested four suspects. Mushrawi himself was jailed for six years for attacking those he thought were heads of crime rings in Jaffa. But he received a presidential pardon three years into the term.

3 Palestinians held for murder of security officer

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Three Palestinians have been arrested on suspicion of murdering an officer in the self-rule security forces in the Gaza refugee camp of Deir Balah, Attorney General Khaled Al Kidra said Wednesday. Mr. Kidra said other Palestinians accused of ordering the murder and supplying the arms have also been detained, but did not give their number. A family which accused the officer of killing one of their relatives as an alleged collaborator with Israel during the 1987-1993 Palestinian uprising is believed to have carried out Tuesday's murder, he said. Ismail Salih Hasuna, 35, from the Preventative Security Services, was killed by masked gunmen as he left his Deir Balah home. Hasuna had been a leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction Fateh Hawks in Deir Balah during the uprising against Israeli rule. Wanted by Israel, he fled the Gaza Strip for Egypt. He returned to Gaza in 1994 with the creation of the Palestinian National Authority as a member of the preventive security, one of a dozen security forces under the self-rule authority.

Kuwait seeks Arab help to free POWs

CAIRO (AFP) — A senior Kuwaiti official on Wednesday called for Arab League support to obtain the release of prisoners of war (POWs) held by Iraq, in talks here with the secretary general of the 22-member pan-Arab organisation. "I have asked the secretary general to pursue his humanitarian efforts for the release of the prisoners," Ibrahim Shahin, said after talks with Esmat Abdul Meguid. Mr. Shahin, the deputy chairman of Kuwait's National Committee for Prisoners and the Missing, said that Iraq was holding 604 POWs since the end of the Gulf war in 1991. "Iraq does not acknowledge their presence," Mr. Shahin told reporters here, adding that Baghdad has informed the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that it had taken only 126 prisoners but that they had later disappeared. Mr. Abdul Meguid said he told Mr. Shahin of the Arab League's "determination to find a solution to this problem which constitutes a stumbling block on the path to Arab reconciliation."

Prince Charles in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Britain's Prince Charles arrived Wednesday at the invitation of Crown Prince Abdullah to attend a cultural festival, the official Saudi Press Agency reported. Prince Satam Ben Abdul Aziz, deputy governor of Riyadh, the Saudi capital, met Prince Charles at the airport. During his two-day visit, Prince Charles will attend Saudi Arabia's annual cultural Janadriya Festival and meet with senior Saudi officials. He also will visit the kingdom's consultative council and meet with Saudi businessmen and British expatriates, a British embassy statement said. He also will introduce speakers from his Prince of Wales Institute of Architecture, who will lecture on architecture at the Janadriya Festival — a celebration of Saudi and Islamic culture held under the patronage of Prince Abdullah. Prince Charles last visited Saudi Arabia in 1993.

U.N. considers Baker for W. Sahara job

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations is expected to name James Baker, a former U.S. secretary of state, as its special envoy to the Western Sahara, U.N. and diplomatic sources said on Tuesday.

"I can confirm that that name is being considered," said U.N. spokesman Juan-Carlos Brandt in response to an item in the Washington Post. He said an announcement would be made shortly.

Diplomats, however, said that the two parties involved, Morocco and the Polisario Front, had not been consulted yet on the Baker appointment and that no announcement could be expected before Secretary-General Kofi Annan returns from Europe on Wednesday.

It is usual for those states or groups involved to approve any intended U.N. representative dealing with their problem.

The Western Sahara dispute has been festering for decades, but a brushfire war was halted by a U.N.-monitored ceasefire in September 1991.

The world body was supposed to organise a

referendum in January 1992 to decide whether the former Spanish colony should be incorporated into Morocco, which controls most of the territory, or become independent, as called for by the Polisario Front organisation.

Despite the low international profile of the Western Sahara, Mr. Annan was said to want to break the logjam on a political conflict that was going nowhere. "He wanted someone of a sufficiently high level to explore all the possibilities and deal with them," said one envoy.

Mr. Annan, in a Feb. 28 report, said he wanted to give a verdict on whether or how the U.N. should continue its operation by May 31, when the current mandate of the U.N. Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) expires.

He said he was considering further reductions in the force, which was cut 20 per cent last year and now includes 230 military observers and support personnel and nine civilian policemen, in addition to U.N. civilian staff.

Damascus Declaration meeting postponed

CAIRO (AFP) — A two-day meeting which was due to open here on Wednesday to discuss a security protocol proposed by Saudi Arabia has been postponed till the end of the month, Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials said.

The meeting of the so-called Damascus Declaration countries, which group Egypt, Syria, and the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), will now take place on March 31, they said.

It will be held on the sidelines of a ministerial session of the 22-member Arab League which is based in Cairo.

Experts were expected to discuss a security protocol submitted by Saudi Arabia, which has been hit by a series of terrorist attacks in recent months. The protocol aims to bolster cooperation between Damascus declaration countries.

Foreign ministers from the eight countries, which include GCC states Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, agreed in December to defend each other in case of aggression against any one of them.

The Damascus Declaration, signed in 1991 after the Gulf war to facilitate economic and security cooperation between Arab members of the U.S.-led coalition which drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, has never been implemented.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:08Cartoon
14:30Curiosity Show
15:00 They Came From Outer Space
16:00N.B.A. Basketball
17:00News Flash
17:02Out of This World
17:30French Programmes
19:30News Headlines
19:35Parenthood
20:00Cinema, Cinema
20:30 Babylon 5 (Science Fiction)
21:10Kung Fu-The Legend
22:00News in English
22:25Feature Film: "Regina"
23:59Tarantula

PRAYER TIMES

04:37Fajr
05:54Sunrise/Duha
11:47Dhuhr
15:06Asr
17:40Maghreb
18:57Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweiffeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 623366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church

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Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 827136
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614194.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
A cold air front will affect the Kingdom and last until Friday evening. It will be cold, cloudy, and rainy with a chance of snow falling over hilly area that are 1,100 metres above sea level. Winds will be westerly active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, rainy, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Mini/Max. Temperatures
Amman04/09
Aqaba09/18
Deserts03/13

Jordan Valley08/18

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 13, Aqaba 22 Humidity readings: Amman 78 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Khalil Al Tussiq757253
Dr. Wafiq Qaddumi893542
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim330432
Dr. Mohammad Al Ghoul790730
Firas pharmacy661912
Ferdows pharmacy778336
Al Asema pharmacy637055
Al Salam pharmacy636730
Yacoub pharmacy644945
Shmeisani pharmacy637660
Nairoukh pharmacy623672
Najib pharmacy847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ts'ammeh 250080
Al Quds pharmacy(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Waleed Nabhan995743
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111.

637777

Fire Brigade617101
Blood Bank775121
Highway Police843402
Traffic Police896390
Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints605800
Price Complaints661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints897467
Amman Municipality Complaints787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)121
Overseas Calls010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television773111
Radio Jordan774111
Water Authority680100
Jordan Electricity Authority815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussain Medical Centre813813/32
Khalidi Maternity644281/6
Akileh Maternity642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Maltas, J. Amman636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital669131
University Hospital845845
Al-Muasher Hospital667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen777101/3
Al-Bashir,775111/26
Army, Marka891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital602240/50
Amal Hospital674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital(09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital(02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital(02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.
Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:15Sanaa (RJ)
08:15Bombyay (RJ)
09:15Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
09:45New Delhi (RJ)
10:05Beirut (RJ)
10:05Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:30Colombo (RJ)
14:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:25London (RJ)
16:40Casablanca (RJ)
17:35Moscow (RJ)
18:10Athens (RJ)
19:05Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
19:25Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:40Rome (RJ)

Other Flights
11:00Doha (QT)
12:40Doha (GF)
13:30Riyadh (SV)
14:10Shanqah (AH)
16:15Dubai (EK)
20:10Beirut (ME)
20:35Cairo (MS)
21:40Tel Aviv (LY)
01:30Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:20Beirut (RJ)
07:15Moscow (RJ)
10:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:05 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:15Rome (RJ)
12:10Paris (RJ)
12:15London (RJ)
12:20Athens (RJ)
20:15Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:20Larnaca (RJ)
20:30Jeddah (RJ)
21:10Cairo (RJ)
22:00 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights

06:00Istanbul (TK)
07:35Beirut, London (BA)
07:45Beirut (ME)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
15:00Algiers (AH)
15:00Riyadh (SV)
16:00Doha (QT)
17:15Dubai, Damascus (EK)
21:25Cairo (MS)
22:50Tel Aviv (LY)
02:30Amsterdam (KL)
04:35Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
09:50Marka (RW)

20:50Aqaba (RW)

HUJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg
Apple700/500
Banana600/600
Banana (imported)1000/900
Cabbage100/40
Carrot200/100
Cauliflower300/200
Cucumber (large)240/120
Cucumber (small)360/250
Eggplant200/120
Fava beans700/500
Garlic1150/800
Grape fruit150/100
Lemon310/180
Marrow (large)260/150
Marrow (small)430/250
Onion (green)220/140
Onion (dry)280/180
Orange550/400
Peas900/500
Pepper (hot)400/200
Pepper (sweet)380/240
Potato330/140
Radish120/50
Spinach300/150
String beans750/500
Tomato260/140

Home News

Produce dilemma between Jordan, Lebanon to reach resolution in next two days

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director General of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Salem Lawzi affirmed Wednesday that a Jordanian-Lebanese trade problem, which surfaced this week, will be settled in the next two days and that produce trucks from both countries will proceed to their respective destinations Saturday.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Lawzi stated that the Lebanese government barred an unspecified number of Jordanian trucks, mainly transporting tomatoes, from entering Lebanon over the past two days with the claim that Lebanese markets were inundated with tomatoes.

However, he described the move as in violation of the agricultural schedule implemented between the two countries which stipulates that Jordan may sell unspecified amounts of produce to Lebanon from the winter season until the end of April.

Earlier, Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat announced that a shipment of fruit, on its way to Jordan, was halted at the border and barred from entering in response to the Lebanese measure.

Dr. Shneikat maintained that contacts are currently under-way between the two countries to resolve the problem.

He stressed that the two sides must remain committed to the implementation of the previously approved schedule.

He confirmed that Lebanese authorities demonstrated understanding of Jordan's position and that measures will hopefully be taken to reinstate the flow of trade in both directions.

Dr. Lawzi said that approximately 15 refrigerated trucks from Lebanon, transporting 40 tonnes of oranges and apples were stopped at the Jordanian border and that Lebanese officials assured him that the crisis will end Saturday when Jordanian trucks will be allowed access into Lebanon.

He elaborated that Jordan exports all types of vegetables to Lebanon during the winter as well as melons in the summer in exchange for Lebanese oranges, apples and cherries as stipulated by the schedule, signed by the two countries.

Local Jordanian vegetable producers earlier complained to the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the current dilemma, stating that it was imperative to export their products to compensate losses incurred due to recent frosts which damaged large quantities of crops earlier this winter.

Lawyers to vote for JBA presidency tomorrow

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Approximately 3,200 lawyers will head tomorrow to the voting polls to elect the next president and council members of the Jordanian Bar Association (JBA).

The attorneys' votes will be distributed between four presidential candidates, who represent major political forces in the JBA, and will also determine the next members of the 10-seat council for which 47 lawyers were nominated.

In the run for this year's presidency are: Hussein Mjalli, incumbent president and Baathist, Saleh Armouti Islamist, Zuhdi Dissi, who, according to analysts is backed by Fateh (a faction of the PLO) and Omar Damrah, an independent.

The most fierce competition, according to analysts, is between Arab nationalists and Islamists, whose representative, Mr. Armouti, lost by a margin of 22 votes in favour of Mr. Mjalli in last year's by-elections.

According to the results of the JBA's elections, since its establishment in the 1950's, no Islamist has ever managed to win the presidency seat and the association had always been controlled by a coalition representing Arab nationalists, leftists and Baathists.

As for this year's elections, Islamists, who unanimously agreed on Mr. Armouti as their candidate, demonstrated optimism that he could set a precedent, not only through their own votes but for other "personal" considerations.

"The votes, which we count on receiving, are not only those of Islamists," said Islamic Action Front (IAF) Executive Council Member Ziad Khalefah, who is running on the Islamist list for this year's elections. "In previous elections, the varying political trends voted in my favour, including adherents of other religions," he said.

The Islamists list is headed by Mr. Armouti and includes Amin Khawaldeh, Ahmad Tubeishat, Adnan Rashdan and Ziad Khalefah.

However, in an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Armouti rejected the notion of Islamists versus Arab nationalists and said that the two movements "stand together." He also asserted that he was not running on behalf of any Islamic movement nor does he belong to any organised Islamic party.

"I am an independent Islamist," Mr. Armouti told the Jordan Times. Maintaining his belief that the general assembly presidency should not be "monopolised" by any Islamic political party, Mr. Armouti pro-

poses activating a number of JBA laws which, he thinks, could solve the problem of unemployment among lawyers.

He also predicts that the younger generation of lawyers, who voted in his favour last year, will do the same in the current elections.

Some of the young lawyers interviewed by the Jordan Times, after last year's by-elections, stressed that electing Mr. Armouti was not based on any political preferences but on "what each candidate can actually provide for the association."

During last year's by-elections, Mr. Armouti won the greatest number of votes in the first round, however as he failed in securing the required 51 per cent of votes cast, a second round was deemed necessary.

In the second round, two of the presidential candidates, who came in third and fourth place, Zaid Khawaldeh and Jawad Younis respectively, also Arab nationalists, withdrew their candidacy in favour of Mr. Mjalli, thereby clinching his bid for the presidency of the JBA.

Mr. Mjalli, a former member of Parliament, has been the president of the JBA for three terms.

Relief supplies to be sent to Iran, Sudan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Relief supplies will be sent to Iran to aid victims of the recent earthquake and to Sudan where ongoing strife in the south and east are taking heavy tolls on the residents there.

According to Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi, who is also head of the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation, the supplies will be sent as soon as arrangements have been completed with the Iranian authorities.

He said the supplies include tents, blankets, medicines and medical equipment.

Nearly a thousand



Abdul Salam Abbadi

people were killed and 40,000 lost their homes in the quake which was measured at 5.5 on the Richter scale. The Ardabil province was hardest hit, with devastation

to nearly 110 villages. Dr. Abbadi said that the relief supplies reaffirm the Kingdom's solidarity with the Iranian people and asserts Jordan's continued drive to maintain good relations with all countries in the region.

The planeload of supplies bound for Sudan will be sent off in the coming few days, Dr. Abbadi said.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said public and private organisations in Jordan have responded very generously to calls for helping Sudan and have collected contributions for the Sudanese people but did not give any details.

U.N. university branch to be inaugurated in Amman

By Sacha Baggili
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new branch of the United Nations University, which will be devoted to the study of international leadership, is to be officially inaugurated in Amman in April.

According to Director of the new United Nations International Leadership Academy (ILA) Adel Safty, the academy aims to enhance the commitment of future world leaders to sustainable democracy, sustainable development and peaceful resolution of disputes.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Professor Safty maintained that the ILA "is the first branch of the United Nations University (to be located) in the Middle East."

The United Nations University, whose headquarters is located in Tokyo, was established in 1973 and operates through various branches worldwide which act primarily as research institutions for specific U.N. issues and concerns.

"These branches do not enrol students but provide training and fellowships for doctorate and post-doctorate fellows," Prof. Safty said.

Other United Nations University branches have been established in Maasticht, The Netherlands (technology), Finland (economics), Venezuela (food and nutrition), Ghana (natural resources), and Macau, China (software development).

According to Prof. Safty, the ILA will achieve its objectives as outlined above, through an "innovative approach" which relies on interactive learning directly from successful leaders.

"Unlike other leadership programmes, such as the one implemented at Harvard University, the ILA will take the concept of leadership beyond the understanding of good management and apply it to the context of general public and world affairs," he said. "The ILA will

deal with leadership in its multifaceted dimensions."

The ILA, which benefited from suggestions to the U.N. made by former Prime Minister to Jordan Abdul Salam Majali, was officially launched by former U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in October of 1995 and Her Majesty Queen Noor at the UN, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Following the official inauguration of the academy in April by Dr. Ghali and Chair to the ILA Advisory Committee Queen Noor, its 1997 Leadership Programme will be launched in Amman on June 1, constituting the academy's first major event to be hosted in pursuit of its objectives.

The event will consist of three weeks of seminars and some regional travel.

Presentations will be made by 20 experienced leaders, such as Deputy Prime Minister of Canada Sheila Copps, Minister of Foreign Affairs to Egypt Amr Moussa, State Minister of Foreign Affairs to Norway Jan Egeland, former Prime Minister to Israel Shimon Peres and former U.K. Minister of Overseas Development Frank Judd.

Presentations detailing the experiences of such figures will fall into five main categories, namely: The U.N. and global leadership forum, the leadership skills forum, the south leadership forum, the leadership, peace and security in the world forum, and the international leadership forum.

According to Prof. Safty, the three-week event will also explore traditional leadership skills of decision-making, communication, and problem solving, as approached by other universities, "but will take these facets further" and appropriate them to world issues and international relations.

The event will be attended by 50-75 "potential leaders," according to the selection of the ILA advisory com-

mittee, from a pool of approximately 200 applicants from 56 countries.

The ILA programme "aims to endow participants with the intellectual tools" needed for the acquisition of "enlightened leadership skills and attitudes," and "to help them establish common bonds for the promotion of peaceful coexistence between diverse cultures and civilisations, an important objective which was highlighted by His Majesty King Hussein at the U.N. headquarters in October 1995," Prof. Safty said.

The leading programme of the ILA will launch the academy's plan of annual conferences to be complemented with other leadership seminars and meetings to be held globally under the coordination of the ILA headquarters in Amman, currently located at the University of Jordan.

"However," Prof. Safty stated, "flexibility to move around will ultimately depend on financing."

He said that financing for the ILA comes primarily from the Jordanian government and that additional money will come through sponsorship of ILA events by various institutions.

"For example, we have local sponsors for the leadership programme in June and other possible sponsors include the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Norwegian Government," he said.

In regards to the location of the ILA in Jordan, Prof. Safty stated that the Jordanian leadership is clearly committed to the goals of sustainable democracy and sustainable development.

Jordan's role in the peace process and its historical experience in a war-torn region render Jordan as a "role model for peaceful resolution of disputes," he added.

NRA signs agreement with American company

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hashem Dabbas, the minister of energy and mineral resources and the president of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) announced Wednesday that the NRA has signed the exploration and production sharing agreement with Medallion-Huber Jordan, Inc., incorporated in Texas.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Dabbas on behalf of the government and Jake Harouny on behalf of Medallion-Huber Jordan Inc. The signing ceremony took place at the NRA in the presence of Robert Coward, director of Medallion-Huber Jordan Inc., as well as senior NRA staff and Engineer Khalid Sheyyab.

The agreement covers an area of 4,800 square kilometres in the Sirhan region, in addition to the performance of geophysical and geological studies. The agreement calls for reentering two available wells, drilling a minimum of nine exploratory wells, and spending not less than \$23 million during the entire eight-year exploration phase of the agreement.

To support the transfer of technology, know-how and training of the NRA-staff, Medallion-Huber Jordan Inc. will contribute \$200,000 per annum in the first two years, 150,000 per

annum in the second two years and \$50,000 per annum in the following four years of exploration and \$100,000 per annum during the entire production period.

This agreement was achieved as a result of NRA's effort to attract international oil companies to invest in the open exploration areas of Jordan and after a series of meetings and negotiations between NRA and Medallion-Huber Jordan Inc. during the last six months, according to an NRA statement.

Upon signing the agreement, Dr. Dabbas told the press that the agreement was the third of its kind as Jordan earlier signed two agreements with international companies for prospecting oil in the Kingdom.

"Jordan signed two previous agreements with Transglobal Company and Agadar Company for the next few years. The latter company will spend \$63 million during the exploration period," Dr. Dabbas said.

He added that Jordan's annual consumption of crude oil amounts to 4.6 million tonnes.

"Jordan's consumption of oil costs the country \$600 million annually, according to Dr. Dabbas.

London conference to focus on European investments in the region

BRUSSELS (J.T.) — Jordanian Ambassador to Belgium Umayyah Toukan Wednesday affirmed that the Jordanian delegation to a conference on "new economic opportunities in the Mediterranean" will focus on European investments in the Middle East.

The meeting is slated to open today in London.

Speaking with a group of Jordanian journalists, currently visiting Belgium, the ambassador described Jordan as eager to accelerate the regional investment process to support economic growth and help redress unemployment.

The London conference follows the 1995 Barcelona conference, Dr. Toukan

said, and unites the Mediterranean countries with the European Union (EU), with the aim of promoting investment opportunities in the Mediterranean region.

He outlined the Barcelona conference as calling for the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean partnership as well as a free-trade zone by the year 2010.

HRH Crown Prince Hassan will address the conference which is targeted at investors, businesses, and financial institutions in the EU as well as companies in the region.

Last year, the EU allocated 4.6 billion European currency units in grants to support economic reform

programmes implemented by Mediterranean countries between 1996 and 1999.

Also in 1996, Jordan was granted nearly \$128 million as part of EU support for the Kingdom's economic reform programme.

Dr. Toukan expressed optimism that Jordanians who have deposits abroad, currently estimated to total nearly \$5 billion, will invest in such programmes.

He stated that Jordan and the EU will hopefully conclude their partnership agreement by the middle of April and that the agreement will facilitate Jordanian products reaching European markets.

Women activists meet to prepare for elections

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Women activists Wednesday affirmed they are exerting all efforts to prepare for the 1997 parliamentary elections, stating that they will focus on strengthening pressure groups and calling for a women's quota.

"We have met with the speaker of the Lower House regarding the Parliament quota and our meeting was successful, but we still need to contact other officials to guarantee the success of the quota system," said Khadijah Habashneh.

Moreover, she affirmed that the organisation has requested to meet with His Majesty King Hussein and the prime minister concerning the issue.

Ms. Habashneh is a secretariat committee member at the Women's Network Organisation (WNO), formed last year to ensure sufficient representation of women in Parliament.

"We have been temporarily formed to support a certain cause, which is to increase women's participation in Parliament as well as in the electoral process as a whole," Ms. Habashneh said.

"Our aim is to strengthen democracy and pluralism," she added, during a meeting with women's activists and women representatives from various non-govern-

mental organisations (NGOs).

Ms. Habashneh outlined the WNO's next step as to conduct lectures and workshops as to how women might participate as candidates in elections or learning methods of managing campaigns for other candidates.

During the 1989 elections, all 12 women candidates, running for Parliament seats failed to reach their goal.

These results, according to observers, led to solely three women running during the 1993 elections in which one woman, Toujan Faisal, garnered enough votes to secure a seat in the Lower House.

Also on the WNO agenda, is contacting donor groups abroad for financial assistance directed to workshops and lectures.

The women activists first met in May of 1996 and decided to form the network to ensure sufficient representation of women in Parliament.

The women repeatedly criticised the one-person, one-vote system (recently endorsed by Parliament) which they described as discriminatory and retrograde, further asserting that it buttressed tribalism and contradicted civil rights and national affiliation.

Kingdom to participate in German tourism exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is slated to participate in an international tourism exhibition to open in Berlin on Mar. 18 and is sending an official delegation, led by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irshaidat, to attend the opening ceremony.

A Ministry of Tourism statement affirmed that there will be a special pavilion at the exhibition to display various items, posters, leaflets and other items featuring the Kingdom's sites, designed to help promote tourism in Jordan and attract greater numbers of visitors.

According to the statement, more than 1.1 million tourists visited the Kingdom last year, registering a 2.5 per cent increase over 1995's figure and earning the country \$770 million.

The statement delineated the tourist population as 252,000 visitors entering from Europe, of whom 57,000 were Germans, registering a 26 per cent increase in the number of German tourists to come to Jordan over the previous year.

The minister Wednesday also received a Spanish television crew currently visiting Jordan at the invitation of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to shoot a documentary on Jordanian archaeological and tourist attractions.

What's Going On

FILMS

* Spanish film "Requiem for Granada" (pts I, II, and III) at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

* "Memories of Monet" (with commentary in Arabic by Adnan Al Sharif) at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh at 6:00 p.m.

* "My Life" at the American Centre, Abdoun on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Paris-based Syrian artist Ziad Dalloul at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until April 3. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists.

* Sculptures by Zaki Sallam at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until March 15.

* Works by artist Amanda Shehadeh at the French Cultural Centre, until March 6.

Zaire says rebels pushing further in Shaba province

Kinshasa expels 47 U.N., charity workers

KINDU, Zaire (R) — Hundreds of people emerged from forest hideouts around the largely looted eastern Zairean town of Kindu Tuesday, days after Zairean soldiers retreated and rebels captured it.

Rebels also pushed further into Zaire's Shaba province Tuesday, taking the town of Kabalo with little resistance, a Defence Ministry official said.

Kabalo is on the main railway line serving the copper-rich Shaba and 400 kilometres south of the rail head at Kindu. "According to our information Kabalo was taken this morning," the senior official told Reuters in the capital Kinshasa. "There was nothing left there. The military who fled Kalemie looted Kabalo and left a long time ago."

Kindu, most of which is on the western bank of the broad, rust red Zaire River, was looted by retreating soldiers last week and next by civilians who stole anything left, residents told journalists who were flown in by the rebels aboard a DC-3.

Hundreds of people with belongings piled on their heads came out of forest hideouts Tuesday and trekked past the airport and into town, saying they fled looting as well as fighting.

There were no visible signs of battle at the airport and much of the town was scarred more by looting than by bullets.

"Everyone joined in. All I took was a carton of mineral water," said Joseph Baroani in Kindu, which residents said was seized by rebels Saturday night.

They said after Zairean troops left along with five white mercenaries, including two who spoke French, Kindu was defended by a 177-strong contingent of former Rwandan Hutu soldiers.

One of the mercenaries had been shot in the leg, they said. Pascal Mwimba, head of the Zaire Red Cross in Kindu, said 11 former Rwandan troops were killed in fighting for the town and three children were killed when a mortar bomb hit their home.

The defence official in Kinshasa could not confirm rebel claims to have taken the town of Manono, 160 kilometres south of Kabalo into the heart of the province.

"We have no information on Manono at present," he said.

He admitted, however, that Kindu had fallen. Rebels had sent reinforcements into the town Monday and the remaining Zairean troops there had fled, he said.

Zaire had until Monday maintained Kindu, 360 kilometres north of Kabalo, was in government hands.

Tutsi-led rebels, who took up arms last October when authorities tried to expel them to their ancestral homeland in Rwanda, have seized a vast stretch of eastern Zaire with seemingly little resistance by Zaire's army.

Guerrilla leader Laurent Kabila says he is determined to end President Mobutu Sese Seko's 31-year-old rule. He has

spurned international pressure for a ceasefire, insisting on direct negotiations with Mobutu. The ailing president is in France.

Mr. Kabila has proclaimed Zaire's third town of Kisangani as his next target, giving government army commanders a March 13 deadline to lay down their arms.

Diamond giant De Beers said in Johannesburg Tuesday it still had staff in two Zairean towns which are threatened by rebels fighting to oust President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Rebel forces are closing in on the diamond centres of Mbuji-Mayi and Kisangani, where De Beers has trading offices.

"We have not evacuated our offices in Mbuji-Mayi," said Gary Ralfe, managing director of De Beers' central selling organisation, speaking at a news conference.

Meanwhile, Zaire has ordered 47 staff of the United Nations and non-governmental organisations to leave the country, accusing them of abandoning thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees to be massacred by rebels.

A spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Francis Kipande, said a senior U.N. official left the Zairean capital Kinshasa Tuesday and 46 other aid workers were due to follow Wednesday.

The Zairean authorities accused them of abandoning the main Hutu refugee camp at Tingi-Tingi in eastern Zaire when the rebels were about to attack it. Aid workers also pulled out of the major town of Kisangani because of the rebels' steady advances.

According to a Zairean radio broadcast late Tuesday, the mainly Tutsi rebels massacred 25,000 refugees and displaced people.

"The precipitate departure of these humanitarian workers from Tingi-Tingi camp and the town of Kisangani is considered by the government to be the direct cause of the massacre of 25,000 refugees and displaced people within 48 hours," the radio said.

The UNHCR responded that it had no reports of the alleged massacre.

U.N. workers in Zaire sought to have the expulsion order withdrawn and managed to convince officials to allow 10 affected people to remain in the country.

But the measure was upheld for 11 U.N. staffers and 36 employees of NGOs, Mr. Kipande said.

The U.N. workers included five members of the UNHCR, four from the World Food Programme (WFP) and two from the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The humanitarian organisations present in Kisangani were Medecins Du Monde (Doctors Of The World), Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF - Doctors Without Borders), Action Contre La Faim (Action Against Hunger), the Catholic agency Caritas, Atlas and the Zairean charity EUB.

Clinton says time to address 'big' issues

WASHINGTON, (R) — President Bill Clinton, caught in an uproar over democratic fund raising, said Tuesday it was time to "get on with the big business" facing America but Republicans instead pressed for a probe by a special counsel.

Mr. Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore, hounded by allegations of unseemly and possibly illegal fund-raising activities surrounding their reelection efforts, have professed their innocence but been unable to direct attention to other issues.

At the end of an Oval Office ceremony in which Mr. Clinton issued a directive banning federal money from being used for research on human cloning, he immediately was peppered with questions about fund raising and pending congressional probes.

"I certainly have no objection to hearings," Mr. Clinton said. "I've always assumed that they would occur."

He then noted that con-

gress, and the White House has "the public's business to get on with as well — a lot of other issues that need to be dealt with."

"Get on with the big business, get on with balancing the budget," said Mr. Clinton, who aides privately acknowledge has been increasingly frustrated with the media focus on an apparent scandal.

"Get on with passing the education programme. Get on with doing the other things that are out there for us to do," he said, adding, "I'm going to do everything I can to facilitate that."

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore have been trying to adopt a business-as-usual approach in recent months, but most of the subjects they have raised have been lost in the steady stream of revelations about fund-raising practices for the Democratic Party.

Congressional Republican leaders Tuesday challenged Mr. Gore's claim that he did not violate any law when he made telephone calls from the White House soliciting campaign contributions.

They also reiterated their call for appointment of an independent counsel to investigate campaign financing irregularities.

"The law is clear that you should not be raising money on federal property and federal buildings," Senate majority leader Trent Lott told reporters. "It's there and if that's what happened then that itself would be enough to indicate that a special counsel should be appointed."

House Speaker Newt Gingrich charged the Clinton campaign has violated campaign reform laws "on a grand scale."

"This is not 'everybody does it,' this is the most systematic large-scale effort to get around the law that we've certainly seen since Watergate, and in its total effort I think is much bigger than Watergate was," Mr. Gingrich said.

Mr. Clinton has tried to distance himself from party operations — noting Tuesday that he was merely the "titular head" of the party. Internal White House docu-

ments, however, have shown an active and direct role by Mr. Clinton in the party's operations.

On Monday Mr. Gore was forced to hold a hastily called news conference to acknowledge that he made "a few" telephone calls from his White House office to potential contributors asking for donations to the Democratic National Committee (DNC).

Although other federal officials are forbidden to use government property for such calls, Mr. Gore said vice presidents are not covered by the law. He said the calls were charged to a Democratic National Committee credit card.

A senate committee and a house panel are preparing to investigate campaign abuses, centering for the most part on democratic fund raising.

Attorney General Janet Reno has rejected requests for a special independent counsel to investigate fund raising, saying it was not warranted at this point.

Helms-Burton remains thorn in U.S.-Canada ties

WASHINGTON, (R) — The United States and Canada Tuesday sought to emphasize common concerns over Cuba's human rights record but deep disagreement over America's anti-Cuba sanctions law continued to mar bilateral ties.

Mr. Axworthy was in Washington to work out details of a visit here early next month by Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien with President Bill Clinton. Among the issues on the agenda was Haiti. The U.N. peacekeeping mission in that Caribbean country, which is heavily funded by the United States and Canada, is expected to end no later than July 31.

Mr. Axworthy said there is "still a major question mark" over what initiatives can be taken after the U.N. leaves to ensure the stability of Haiti's democratic regime but he hopes the United States and Canada can agree on a joint approach by the time of the Chretien-Clinton meeting.

Canada, Europe and the United States have been at odds over Cuba since Congress last March passed Helms-Burton after four American citizens flying in

light aircraft were shot down over international waters by Cuban jet fighters.

The law allows naturalised Americans to sue in U.S. courts foreigners deemed to have benefited from property confiscated from Havana since the Cuban Revolution in 1959.

Although this section has twice been suspended by Mr. Clinton, another section — now in effect — allows Washington to ban executives, shareholders and representatives investing in companies investing in confiscated property.

At the press conference, Mrs. Albright stressed the positive, saying the overriding U.S.-Canadian common interest is "the extent to which we agree on the goals, which is a democracy, or movement toward democracy in Cuba."

Mr. Axworthy insisted — gently — that Canada's attempt to engage Cuba on dialogue on human rights, including his own recent visit and follow-up talks last week, have "made some headway in a couple of crucial areas."

But Mrs. Albright said despite Mr. Axworthy's claims, "I'm sure that he along with the United States is waiting for more concrete results from (Cuban leader Fidel) Castro."

Later, talking to reporters outside the state department without Mrs. Albright at his side, Mr. Axworthy was asked if the United States and Canada had found more common ground on Cuba.

"We want to work in a way that would reinforce developments, transition, change in Cuba but we'll do it each in our own particular way," he said. "We're doing so not in any atmosphere of animosity. We just agree we've got a different approach coming out of our background and history."

But he acknowledged continued "big difficulties" over Helms-Burton, saying the U.S. refusal to cooperate with a World Trading Organisation effort to adjudicate the sanctions law dispute "confirms my own anxiety that Helms-Burton is causing a real disruption in the larger trading system."



Police turn a water cannon on anti-nuclear protesters to clear the way for a controversial shipment of six nuclear waste containers called Castors in Dannenberg Wednesday. Thousands of activists blocked the roads from Dannenberg to the Gorleben dump 20 kilometres away to stop the shipment of used nuclear fuel from several nuclear power plants all over Germany (Reuter photo)

Taleban protecting wanted Saudi militant in Afghanistan

KABUL, (AFP) — Osama Bin Laden, a Saudi dissident wanted on charges of international terrorism, is being protected by the Islamic Taleban in Afghanistan, a Kabul official confirmed Wednesday.

"We will not put pressure on him to leave Afghanistan," Mullah Amir Shah Muttaqi, acting Taleban minister of culture and information, told journalists.

Mr. Muttaqi said "hospitality is our tradition" and as a foreign guest, Mr. Bin Laden, a multi-millionaire who is also under investigation by the United States, would be welcome in Afghanistan.

Mr. Bin Laden was stripped of his Saudi citizenship in 1994 and U.S. newspapers have reported that U.S. intelligence agencies were examining his activities, believing he had financed a host of hardline groups from Egypt to Algeria.

The Pakistani press reported a week ago that Saudi Arabia had demanded the Taleban hand over Mr. Bin Laden, who is alleged to have masterminded militant Islamic extremists active in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Mr. Muttaqi implied that Mr. Bin Laden was welcome only as long as he was here as a "visitor" and did not conduct any activities hostile to foreign countries. "We will never allow anyone to use Afghan soil to make attacks against any other country," Mr. Muttaqi said.

In February, Egyptian security officials alleged that Mr. Bin Laden was training 1,000 new militants in two camps in Afghanistan.

The Egyptian news agency MENA said, quoting the experts, that the Taleban had reneged on a pledge after it captured Kabul on September to expel all foreign Islamic fundamentalists living in the country.

But Mr. Muttaqi denied that terrorist training camps were still active in the Khost area near the frontier with Pakistan and repeated that the Taleban would not tolerate interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

"The Taleban will never allow camps to train subversives in activities against other countries," he said.

The deputy Taleban governor of Nangrahar province in eastern Afghanistan has reportedly admitted to journalists that the "controversial Arab" is living in areas under the religious militia's control.

He is reportedly living in exile in eastern Nangrahar province with his wife and children and a large number of other Arab families.

The New York Times has quoted the state department as saying that Bin Laden was "one of the most significant financial sponsors of Islamic activities in the world."

Arab volunteers from many Muslim countries fought alongside the Afghan Mujahideen during the 10-year jihad or holy war against

Soviet occupation and the local communists.

During the rule of ex-President Burhanuddin Rabbani, who the Taleban ousted from Kabul Sept. 27, camps in eastern Afghanistan provided military training for "freedom fighters" bound for Kashmir and elsewhere.

Meanwhile, fighting stepped up between the Taleban and their Afghan opposition forces in western Badghis province, and in Ghorband Valley northwest of the capital.

Mr. Muttaqi said an infantry attack Tuesday by ethnic Uzbek warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum had been repulsed by the Taleban in Badghis.

Fighting in Badghis, the key to strategic Herat City to the south, has been going on for several months without any major breakthrough by either side. Thousands of civilians have been uprooted by these battles.

In the Shebar Pass at the western end of the Ghorband Valley Mr. Muttaqi denied travellers reports of a major conflict.

He added the Taleban had "not yet launched their major offensive" against Shebar, which is a backdoor pass through the Hindu Kush Mountains to Gen. Dostum's northern fiefdom.

However, he admitted there had been an exchange of rockets and other artillery fire between the Taleban and Gen. Dostum's Shi'ite religious faction allies, Hezb-i-Wahdat, who currently control Shebar.

Burmese rebels say military targets outside their areas could be targeted

BANGKOK, (AFP) — The Karen National Union (KNU) Wednesday denied accusations of terrorism by Burma's junta, but did not rule out guerrilla strikes on military targets outside Karen territory.

"It's a principal of guerrilla warfare. You retreat as the enemy advances, then strike from the rear," a KNU spokesman, who requested anonymity, said by telephone from the Thai border.

The KNU, the last major ethnic group yet to reach a ceasefire with the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), is facing a massive assault on its border enclaves by government forces, which have already overrun much of the rebels' territory in eastern and southern Burma.

The spokesman did not rule out KNU strikes on military targets inside towns as guerrillas fought a rear-guard action.

He said terrorist attacks with civilian casualties would be avoided. Area bases for SLORC forces, ammunition dumps and airforce bases were possible targets.

The spokesman estimated that 30,000 SLORC forces, including support troops, were being deployed in KNU territories, while the rebels could muster 5,000 troops.

including civilian militia. He denied accusations of KNU role in bombings of the Rangoon-Mandalay train in May last year and a Buddhist pagoda in Rangoon on Dec. 25, which were levelled at a government news conference in the Burmese capital Tuesday.

"What Colonel Kyaw Thein (a senior Burmese military intelligence officer) said is untrue. The KNU did not bomb any targets outside our areas while peace talks were taking place with SLORC," he said.

Last year the KNU held four rounds of talks with the junta and have said they were seeking a fifth round when the current offensive began last month.

He said the pagoda bombing — in which five people were killed and 17 injured — was the result of a rift within the SLORC itself.

The KNU believed a faction of the junta's intelligence wing at odds with leaders of the armed forces had planned the blast, the spokesman said.

On the current SLORC offensive, the spokesman said the rebels had lost their fixed bases and smuggling routes but were maintaining guerrilla resistance in a bid to inflict high casualties on junta troops.

"We hope to wear the ene-

my down," he said. "After the dry season we may reestablish bases."

There were continuous clashes between rebel guerrilla units and SLORC forces within the KNU's brigade four area in Tenasserim division and further north in Sixth Brigade area in Karen state, he said.

The SLORC advance has led to thousands of Karen villagers being displaced. At least 15,000 Karens are estimated to have crossed into Thailand since the junta moved in last month.

A relief worker said Wednesday that some 3,500 more had gathered inside Burma at Htaw Ma Pyo Hta, seven kilometres from the Thai border in Raichaburi province.

Nine of the refugees had died, most from malaria, since they fled their homes two weeks ago.

They faced a "precarious" medical situation, since the water supply in the area was poor, the relief worker said.

Some 900 Karen women and children were reportedly sent to Htaw Ma Pyo Hta after fleeing to Kanchanaburi province to the north last week — an incident which drew international criticism for Thailand's handling of the refugees, despite vigorous denials by the military of forcible repatriations.

Protesters lob firebombs at German police

DANNENBERG, Germany, (R) — Hundreds of masked militants lobbed fire bombs and pelted police with stones in northern Germany Tuesday to protest against a controversial nuclear waste shipment that was on its way to a dump.

Two policemen were injured in the confrontation.

Police said anti-nuclear protesters also fired very pistols into the air at the scene of the clashes in countryside near the town of Dannenberg, where hundreds of riot police and border troops were deployed to guard the shipment.

"The situation is extremely serious," said a police spokesman on the spot.

Two officers were injured in the clashes and a thick cordon of police encircled about 250 demonstrators to take their fingerprints and personal details.

The spent fuel rods arrived by train in the early hours of the morning at a station in Dannenberg. The casks were unloaded on to flat-bed trucks which were ready to be transported by road to Gorleben medium-term storage depot Wednesday.

But police said it was not yet clear which route the trucks would take for the final 20-kilometres stretch of the journey to Gorleben, because protesters had burrowed underneath roads and damaged the surface of others.

Protesters had also set up barricades. Police said repair work to some of the roads might even be necessary.

The government defended its nuclear energy policies, conservatives slammed the activists for "abusing the freedom to demonstrate" but the environmental Greens Party defended the protests as an expression of popular dissent.

In Germany's biggest post-war security operation some 30,000 police and border troops lined tracks along the train's route northwards Monday to rein in thousands of activists who had defied the authorities' ban on demonstrating.

But the operation costing an estimated 66 million marks (\$39 million) seemed far from over, as police faced the prospect of further disruption from 8,000 activists camped at the shipment's final destination — Gorleben, east of Hanover.

"The violent blockades against the nuclear waste transport are an outrageous abuse of the right to demonstrate," Peter Hintze, the general secretary of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats, said in a statement.

"Everyone is entitled to peaceful protest. But no one has the right to dig under streets, saw rails and throw grappling hooks onto overhead rail lines," he said, referring to attempts to sabotage the railway tracks during five days of protests.

Mr. Hintze warned the Environmentalist Greens Party that if they continued to "encourage protests, they would be finding themselves on the side of law-breakers and anarchists."

But Greens leader Jürgen Trittin told German television the government had to realise that its atomic energy policy flew in the face of public opinion.

"The state cannot afford such an energy policy in the long run, that makes it necessary for so many law enforcers to be mobilised. This is not consensus, but nonsense," Mr. Trittin said. Mr. Trittin said power stations should store their own nuclear waste rather than transporting it across the country and said the shipment should be sent back to where it came from.

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N. Korean agents try to get to defector

BEIJING. (AFP) — North Korean agents tried to enter the South Korean consulate in Beijing where a top defector from the Stalinist state has taken refuge, diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

Shots were fired but the attempt to get to top North Korean ideologue Hwang Jang-Yop failed, the sources said.

But since the drama last week, security has been further strengthened around the consulate building in the Chinese capital where Mr. Hwang took refuge on Feb. 12, witnesses said.

According to foreign diplomats living near the building, the North Korean operation was mounted just before midnight on Feb. 27.

Three or four men scaled the wall of the Burmese embassy and crossed the garden to get close to the Congo embassy which is just next to the South Korean consulate, the sources said.

The group was seen by Chinese People's Armed Police (PAP) officers, who opened fire, probably in the air, to scare off the agents, the diplomats said.

The PAP has led the security operation around the South Korean consulate since Mr. Hwang's defection was revealed. Talks between South Korea and China on getting the most senior North Korean defector to Seoul have since been deadlocked.

A South Korean embassy spokesman said he had heard nothing about the incident.

North Korea stalled negotiations over Mr. Hwang after juggling his acceptance that he wanted to leave the Stalinist North, the Yonhwi Shinbun said Wednesday.

But a senior official in Seoul said South Korea would step up talks with China to get the wrangle over Hwang settled as soon as possible.

A source in Beijing told the Japanese daily that the North had retracted its intention to admit the asylum bid in Beijing by 74-year-old Hwang.

The new twist stalled negotiations between China and South Korea, and between China and North Korea, the source said.

South Korea released a copy of Mr. Hwang's statement asking for asylum and a videotape of his writing the document to prove that the official sought defection of his own will, the source said.

Pyongyang, which had threatened retaliation for what it called the "kidnapping" of Mr. Hwang, judged from the statement's handwriting and style as well as the videotape that the defection had not been forced, it said.

North Korea's Central Radio said last month that North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il hinted he could accept the defection.

He was quoted as saying: "Those who are coward, go if they want to go."

However, North Korea last Saturday notified China of its reversal of the intention, bringing negotiations to a halt, the source said.

Bilateral talks resumed after the funeral of Chinese paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, but Pyongyang has been demanding that South Korea should not use Mr. Hwang for political purposes, the source said.

Another source told the Yonhwi that North Korea was seeking the return of Kim Duk-Hong, an aide for Mr. Hwang who has also requested asylum.

In Seoul, where spokesmen have been cautious since a rap on the knuckles from Beijing for making political capital out of the defection, a senior foreign ministry official said South Korea expected no early solution to the case.



President Bill Clinton walks through tornado ravaged College Station with local pastor Hezikiah Stewart (right) during his tour of storm damaged areas in his home state. Tornadoes struck several areas in Arkansas on March 1, killing 25 people and injuring over 400. Nine counties in Arkansas have been declared federal disaster areas (Reuters photo)

Ohio River rises, Clinton declares disaster areas

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky. (R) — Evacuations were ordered along the raging Ohio River Tuesday and National Guard troops were called in to fill sandbags to hold back rising waters from storms that left about 50 people dead.

President Bill Clinton issued disaster declarations for parts of Arkansas, Ohio and Kentucky that can provide low-interest federal loans and other aid to victims of the weekend storms and subsequent flooding.

Mr. Clinton took an aerial tour of Arkadelphia and other areas of his home state of Arkansas flattened by an estimated 14 tornadoes over the weekend. The twisters wrecked homes and businesses along a 400-kilometer path, killing 25 people and injuring another 400.

The flooding along the still-rising Ohio River and its tributaries forced cancellation of a circus in Cincinnati, closed whiskey distilleries in Kentucky and kept people away from gambling boats in Indiana.

The same storms that spun tornadoes in Arkansas swamped Louisville with nearly 30 centimetres of rain, and the runoff threatened residents with the Ohio River's highest crest since 1964, when it reached 12.5 metres. The city shored up 47 kilometres of cement and earthen flood walls with 120,000 sandbags in anticipation of Friday's crest.

Sarajevo church bombing exposes Muslim-Croat tension

SARAJEVO. (R) — Bosnian authorities suspended four policemen Tuesday pending an investigation into the bombing of a Roman Catholic Church in Sarajevo they were supposed to be guarding.

The announcement came on state media hours after a bomb went off at the back door of Saint Joseph's Church just after one a.m. (midnight GMT), shattering windows in two residential buildings nearby.

No one was injured in the blast, only 20 metres from a police station.

The interior ministry for the Sarajevo area said in a statement that it was investigating the explosion and pledged to "correct possible mistakes and determine the responsibility of people who could have stopped the incident."

Mr. Clinton said in an interview with the Italian daily L'Unita, published as the army was reported to be surrounding the southern towns of Sarande and Vlore, three days after a state of emergency was imposed.

"It will probably take several days for law to be restored in Vlore and for the rebels to surrender their weapons," he continued.

President Sali Berisha also pledged not to send army forces into the resort town of Sarande, which is controlled by armed mobs, a resident told Greek television Wednesday.

The resident, former regional government official Dimitris Stefanos, told Greek television network Skai that Mr. Berisha made the pledge Tuesday night in a television conversation with a group of local officials in Sarande.

Greek television also reported Albanian soldiers and armed rioters clashed Wednesday in a village near Sarande, leaving four people injured.

The Skai network's correspondent, Georges Avgeropoulos, said the skirmish occurred in Fiari, 10 kilometres from Sarande, where the injured were taken to hospital.

A member of the Albanian parliament, Thomas Mitsios, speaking in Sarande, told AFP that the fighting in Fiari had ended at mid-morning.

The foreign minister added that the army, deployed throughout the country and given orders to shoot at will at anyone who refuses to surrender their weapons, would not attack the rebels.

The international community poised to increase pressure for a political solution by sending a delegation from Europe's top security body the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said Wednesday the organisation was in a position to put "maximum diplomatic pressure" on Mr. Berisha.

Diplomats said Wednesday, however, that the OSCE had yet to receive the requisite authorisation from the Tirana government.

Provided they get it, the team will leave Thursday and stay only 24 hours so as not to interfere with a European Union mission led by Foreign Minister Hans Van Mierlo of the Netherlands, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency.

The country has been plunged into unrest for more than six weeks following the collapse of Pyramid investment schemes in which thousands of Albanians lost their life savings.

In Vlore, which has been at the hub of discontent, inhabitants were expected to

hold further demonstrations Wednesday.

A four-year-old girl was killed Tuesday in Vlore, bringing to 18 the number shot dead in the port city on the Adriatic Sea.

A resident in the town, contacted by telephone early Wednesday, said the army had not entered the town where a food shortage was beginning to be felt.

"We were afraid of an army intervention," the man said. "There were armed men on rooftops all night but nothing happened. We are still living in fear."

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"During the past few days, in operations against armed rebels, there have been no clashes involving fire arms between the armed forces and armed rebels," it said.

Meanwhile, two Albanian Air Force pilots said Tuesday they diverted their MiG-15 fighter to southern Italy to seek asylum after being ordered to open fire on civilians during a growing crisis in Europe's poorest state.

"We escaped because they ordered us to fire on a column of civilian vehicles near Gjirokastra," Italian News Agency ANSA quoted Captain Agrae Dajci as telling a news conference.

He told reporters at the police headquarters, where he and Major Adriano Elezi had been taken for questioning, that they were told to shoot to defend army vehicles heading south.

The pilots declined to give details to reporters of how many civilians they were ordered to open fire on, but said twice that the order came while they were already airborne.

That prompted them to switch course. They said they had picked the Italian airport because it was one they already knew.

The two men, who said they were both 35 and were worried about their wives and children, flew their elderly MiG-15 aircraft into a military air base in Galatina, across the southern Adriatic from Albania, at 11:22 GMT, the Defence Ministry said.

The aircraft was picked up on the radar but the pilots landed without authorisation from the aircraft control tower.

The Defence Ministry said Albania's Ambassador Pandeli Pasko had formally asked for the plane to be returned. Italy is conducting an inquiry into the incident and police were still questioning the pilots.

Italian Coast Guards meanwhile increased sea and helicopter patrols amid fears of a flood of illegal immigrants trying to flee the violence by making the short trip across to Italy.

Albania rules out army offensive to quell anarchy

TIRANA. (AFP) — The Albanian foreign minister Wednesday ruled out an army offensive to restore order in southern towns overrun by armed mobs, saying the government would bide its time to bring the situation under control.

"We shall proceed calmly," Foreign Minister Tritan Shehu said in an interview with the Italian daily L'Unita, published as the army was reported to be surrounding the southern towns of Sarande and Vlore, three days after a state of emergency was imposed.

"It will probably take several days for law to be restored in Vlore and for the rebels to surrender their weapons," he continued.

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U.S. welcomes possible compromise on NATO command

BONN. (R) — Responding to a German initiative, the United States has opened the door to the possibility of giving up or sharing the command of southern NATO forces with Europe after a delay of perhaps five years.

"We have a completely open mind," U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen told reporters after German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe announced a tentative plan to resolve a U.S.-French row over whether an American officer should remain in charge of the forces based in Naples.

The divisive debate over France's demand to put a European in charge of the strategically important post had jeopardised an earlier by Paris that its military forces would rejoin NATO's military structure after an absence of over 30 years.

Mr. Ruehe said during a joint press conference with visiting Mr. Cohen that German, French, British, Spanish and Italian officials met Tuesday to try and develop a European position on France's demand. U.S. sources said the meeting was in Bonn.

The United States had until now flatly refused to surrender the command to a European officer, and Mr. Ruehe suggested a face-saving deal for France was emerging in Europe to leave the command in U.S. hands now but reconsider the issue in five or six years, while strengthening European participation in the region.

"When we say we would like to review, or plan to review, the situation in a number of years, we have a completely open mind," Mr. Cohen said following Mr. Ruehe's announcement.

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Challenge of cloning

THE SPECTRE of making carbon copies of human beings in the wake of the cloning of a sheep in Scotland and a monkey in the U.S. has naturally caused deep concern globally. "It is a matter of morality and spirituality as well," declared President Bill Clinton when he issued an order banning funding of human cloning research. "Each human life is unique, born of a miracle that reaches beyond laboratory science," the president added.

But Washington did not stop there in reacting to the shocking revelations about cloning. President Clinton also asked the national Bioethics Advisory Commission to review the legal and ethical implication of new science. "Like the splitting of the atom," President Clinton said, "this is a discovery that carries burdens as well as benefits."

The magnitude of the phenomenon of cloning is so large that it calls for an immediate international action. The possibility of renegade scientists duplicating cloning in their secret clinics or laboratories cannot be excluded. As long as there are no internationally binding codes of conduct on the issue, some countries with advanced knowledge of genetic engineering could very well be tempted to experiment with cloning, first on animals then on human beings. Once the genie is allowed out of the bottle, there is no telling where and how far it will go.

The Clinton administration has done the right thing for now in calling for a total ban on human cloning pending the examination of its implications. Other countries are called upon to follow suit. The U.N., for its part, should be called upon to debate the issue immediately with a view to adopting an internationally binding treaty dimensions and ramifications of this science.

Since the issue of cloning poses great ethical, spiritual and moral questions, over and above its immediate scientific implications, scientists, scholars, religious leaders and statesmen should also get together to debate it. There is no way that a legal document whether national or international could curb further incursions into human reproduction on its own, without support from all corners of the world. That is why all the countries, including their peoples, should be involved in the collective effort to deal effectively with the real challenges of cloning.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily discussed the problem of the Palestinian refugees and prospects for a solution, noting that Israel has been delaying any discussion of the problem to gain more time and consolidate its hold on all the Palestinian lands to prevent the repatriation of those people who remained displaced for 50 years. It is illogical to see the Jews from around the world being gathered and migrating to Palestine on the strength of a legend that says they have been in the diaspora for 3,000 years, while the Palestinians are denied repatriation to houses they were evicted from only 50 years ago, said Sultan Hatab. Urging the Arab countries in general and the Jordanians and Palestinians in particular to open the negotiations with Israel for the return of the refugees, the writer said this issue is as important as the question of the Israeli forces' redeployment in the West Bank. The writer said that if the Arabs seek a lasting and just solution to the Palestine problem, the refugees problem should be resolved as soon as possible, and the world community and the United Nations ought to contribute to a permanent solution. The refugees problem, he added, is one that concerns all Palestinians who yearn to return to their homeland in Palestine and it is not a mere humanitarian issue that can be solved by providing food and relief assistance to those who have been uprooted from their homeland.

SAMIH MAAITAH, a writer for Al Sabeel weekly, tackled the question of Sri Lankan maids in Jordan, quoting statistics that put their number at 25,000, of whom 18,000 are illegally employed. The writer said that these maids earn and transfer nearly \$30 million to their country every year, thus siphoning off hard currency needed by the Jordanians, 42 per cent of whom are below the production and employment age, living in a poor country whose poverty level is rising fast. The writer said the more serious problem for Jordan lies with the care of thousands of Jordanian children entrusted to these maids which, he said, are influenced by a different culture or religion. Although a limited number of these maids are needed to serve families that are actually in need of them, the majority of maids are found in homes where housewives are either too lazy to do the housework or lack the time to look after their children, continued the writer. While realising and admitting that this problem is not of the present government's make, the writer said the concerned authorities could resort to some measures that would trim down the number of maids, stop the drain of badly needed hard currency for development purposes and ward off danger posed to the young generations.

The View from Academia

On traffic lights and traffic life

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

THERE IS no doubt that traffic lights have their own benefits and virtues. Among other things, they have made life on our roads, especially at intersections, much safer and convenient. Many fatal and disturbing road accidents happened at intersections before the installation of traffic lights, not to mention the constant fear one experienced (as both pedestrian and motorist) as one came to an intersection with heavy traffic coming from all directions and with adventurous motorists paying little attention to the right-of-way of others.

Traffic lights guarantee not only safety but also less friction with motorists who think they own the road and who are out there to prove a point, flex muscles or assert themselves. Had there not been traffic lights, one would have had to develop selfish, aggressive and even reckless driving habits in order (ironically) to survive and compete in the Darwinian world of our public roads. Traffic lights then enable many motorists to maintain a level of decency in driving, in addition to a level of mental and psychological sanity. Thank God there are traffic lights.

Recently, however, traffic lights have become a nuisance and a bother. For one thing, they cause significant delays. Not long ago, you could go from the University of Jordan campus to Amra Hotel in six easy, convenient minutes. Now, you need at least 17 minutes. This is a radical change. One may attribute the delay, in part, to the volume of traffic itself, which has increased rapidly over the years. But the delay is attributed primarily to the increase in the number of traffic lights.

One could argue that the increase in the number of traffic lights is a necessity — the lesser evil. One could also argue, and aptly so, that the Amman Greater Municipality is doing an excellent job at facilitating traffic through digging tunnels. Not long ago, the Fifth Circle was a torture to drive through.

Now it is a great pleasure, thanks to the tunnel.

However, three things have to be emphasised here. The first is that there seems to be a surplus of traffic lights on some (many?) of our roads, maybe even an inflation. Some traffic lights — in the capital Amman and in the other Jordanian towns, as well as on the roads linking the major cities — seem to be quite irrelevant.

Take, for example, the three infamous traffic lights in the town of Al Husn on the Amman-Irbid road. In the said town, and on a road which is not longer than half a mile, there are three traffic lights. As the traffic from the road into Al Husn is not heavy at any hour of the day, one traffic light (the one in the middle) is totally irrelevant. The second, the one which takes you also into Al Sarish, is at best half necessary. The question to pose here is why have three traffic lights, and thus obstruct the flow of traffic on the busy Amman-Irbid road for the sake of a couple of cars going into or out of Al Husn, instead of having one? There is a real problem here.

The question has been posed in many informal gatherings during the past few years. At one gathering, an interesting answer was given, and not jokingly. The friend who gave the answer swore that it was a pure miscalculation on the part of some of those involved in the construction of the road. He said when the contract was signed with the contractor who built the road, there was an article which stipulated the installation of three traffic lights. When the contractor came to install the traffic lights, he was not convinced of their relevance. But since he is obliged to do so by law, he had to install the three on the road. He was not even told where to put them, and thus he resorted to his intuition and his own ingenuity. Whether the funny story of my friend is true or not, however, these three traffic lights cause an unnecessary interruption. If you are in doubt, please visit the location and see for yourself.

Another example is the city of Irbid itself. A year ago, you could move from one end of the city to another in a matter of minutes. The drive to the farthest point was so convenient that it gave Irbid a big advantage over Amman — in this particular respect, that is. But the countryside, provincial, peaceful Irbid is fast disappearing, thanks, in part, to the many unnecessary traffic lights.

The second point is that many traffic lights may be necessary at certain hours of the day or certain days of the week but not at all hours. On Friday, there is lesser traffic in many of our streets. Why keep the traffic lights functioning in the same way they function when there is a rush hour? Can we not turn the blinking yellow light on?

Take also the late night and early morning hours. Why should I stop at a red light at one or two in the morning, when there is no traffic whatsoever? One feels both vexed and stupid stopping at a red light in the dead of the night.

The third point is that there seems to be a greater necessity now, more than at any other time before, to start constructing (or transforming some of the existing roads into) traffic-light free roads. Amman in particular has become a busy cosmopolitan city, and freeways have become a must.

At a time when some countries in the world (Japan) have got rid of, or are getting rid of, or reducing reliance on traffic lights, they are on the increase in our part of the world.

Something needs to be done to make life on our roads more convenient and to make our reliance on traffic lights a blessing, not a nuisance. I also have a feeling that the unnecessary delays at traffic lights cause motorists to feel angry and frustrated and to drive somewhat less carefully and politely than they normally do.

'The goal of a new area of shared prosperity can only encourage efforts to reach a lasting peace'

By Malcolm Rifkind

The writer is British foreign secretary. He wrote the following article on the occasion of the opening today of the first Euro-Mediterranean Investment Conference.

THIS CONFERENCE comes at an important moment in EU-Mediterranean relations, one month before the second meeting between European ministers in Valletta on April 16-17. The U.K. is hosting this conference because we are committed to finding practical ways to help promote stability and economic development in the Mediterranean. We want the conference to make a real contribution to increasing trade and investment relations between our two regions, to the benefit of both sides.

I am delighted that a number of highly respected international figures will speak at the conference, in particular our keynote speaker the Crown Prince of Jordan. Other participants will be business and government leaders, economic experts and others who have a role to play in shaping the Mediterranean of the twenty-first century.

We have two main aims. The first is to encourage investment in the region from companies in the EU. This will be a crucial factor in the economic development of the region. Potential investors will be briefed on the untapped prospects across a range of sectors in each country. We will cover in depth the issues which investors need to consider: risk management, finance, taxation and legal factors. Senior figures from each Mediterranean country will describe the measures they are developing to attract overseas investment in their economies through privatisation, financial incentives and legislative reform. The discussions will be supplemented by individual country guides, produced jointly as an initiative of the U.K. and the European Commission; guides which can be regularly updated as economies and trading arrangements evolve.

EU companies must be made aware of the vast potential of the region. EU investment in the Mediterranean is already crucial for the countries in question. But it represents a very small proportion of total EU investment: only four per cent of private capital. In short, EU investment does not yet adequately reflect either the economic potential of the region or the closer links with Europe being forged at the political level.

In the past there may have been some justification for the low level of interest among EU companies. Many

Mediterranean economies were unreformed, inward-looking and not particularly welcoming to private investment, whether domestic or foreign. It was not surprising that European investors looked to more welcoming environments elsewhere.

All that is changing fast. Economic reform, including a strong commitment to free and open relations with the rest of the world, has spread across the region. This has brought with it the prospect of the Mediterranean countries at last unlocking their economic potential. It should not be a difficult task to convince European businessmen to invest more, but first they have to be persuaded to revise their preconceptions about the region and look at what is really happening.

Our second aim is therefore to encourage and assist Mediterranean partners in opening up their economies to trade and investment. Britain is well placed to do this: our expertise in privatisation is unrivalled. In the 1980s, we were one of the first Western countries to face up to the pressing need to reinvigorate our economy. We did so, and the benefits are clear to see today. And we have long been a steadfast advocate of the benefits of free trade.

The conference is part of the new relationship established between the 15 EU and 12 Mediterranean partners at the Barcelona conference of November 1995. At Barcelona, these 27 countries agreed to develop a new partnership based on better communication, enhanced cooperation and increased trade. We have done a lot in the past 14 months.

Perhaps the most important achievement is the progress we have made in negotiating new Association Agreements with the Mediterranean partners. These agreements are the first step in setting up a free trade area in the region by 2010. Turkey already has an extensive relationship through the EC customs union, and Malta and Cyprus both have excellent trading arrangements through their long-standing Association Agreements with the EU. Important new agreements have already been signed between the EU and Tunisia, Israel, Morocco and the PLO. Negotiations should soon begin with Algeria, and preparatory talks are under way with Syria.

All this is encouraging. But we must do more. The agreement with Jordan is nearing conclusion, and will be a priority in the weeks to come. There is an urgent need to unblock negotiations with Lebanon and Egypt, both of which are held up on agriculture. All member states, including the U.K., face producer sensitivities. But we

must remember the importance of the agriculture sector in the region. Egypt has asked for a new quota on oranges of 300,000 tonnes. Yet member states have been unable to agree to a new offer of 17,000 tonnes. This represents less than one per cent of total EU production. In simpler terms, this would be 1/3 of an orange (or four segments) each year for every inhabitant of the EU.

This is patently short-sighted. In 1995 the EU had a trade surplus of more than \$18 billion with the Mediterranean. It is in the EU's own interest to encourage stronger trade links, as the best way to help economic development of the region. The U.K. is determined to support this exciting partnership. We seek to create a new zone of prosperity and stability between the two regions. Britain is committed to global free trade, under the auspices of the WTO, by 2020. The Euro-Mediterranean Economic Area must not be an extension of a "fortress Europe," but a decisive step towards breaking down tariff barriers once and for all. Only then will companies be able to compete internationally on a fair and equal basis.

To assist with the Barcelona process, the EU will provide \$5.4 billion to the Mediterranean partners over the period 1995-99. The U.K. is providing 1/6 of these funds. They will be used to support the process of transition in economies in the region, and to help with sustainable development. And the relationship is not just about economics. Our political partnership is developing well: important Confidence and Security Building Measures have been agreed, such as EuroMedCo, the emerging network of foreign policy institutes. In the social field, several new initiatives have been launched, culminating in a major conference on governance which will be held in The Hague later this month.

Britain is committed to this process. The Mediterranean matters to us now as it has done for centuries. The U.K. was instrumental in developing the current joint EU-Israel study of the Palestinian economy. And I have sought to start a debate about the long-term shape of the region by suggesting the goal of an Organisation for Cooperation in the Middle East. Encompassing not just countries in the EU and the Mediterranean, but all those with interests in the region, it would ensure that current moves towards peace, progress and stability continue well into the twenty-first century. While this process would be distinct from that launched at Barcelona, it is our view that the goal of a new area of shared prosperity

can only encourage efforts to reach a lasting peace in the region.

In April, I shall see my EU and Mediterranean colleagues in Valletta, where I

shall report on the results of our conference in London. Both meetings will be important steps towards the goal of closer relations between our two regions. A goal to which

Britain is fully committed. And one we will reach by building on the achievements of the last 14 months, in the spirit of partnership to mutual benefit.

LETTERS

Jerusalem: Key to peace

To the Editor:

DURING THE course of history the innocent were not always saved.

It took a monarch to hear of the plight of Nuha, a four-year-old orphan who had been given the run-around by local hospitals, for that government orphanage to be royally rescued from its fate of bureaucratic indifference.

The sight of that baby breathing with difficulty at Al Hussein Medical Centre, where some of the children are now under medical supervision after so much neglect, is heartbreaking. Had they not been championed by King Hussein, they could have died. I am ashamed to be part of a society that could have let that happen. The obvious joy with which some of those tiny, formerly bereft, human beings instinctively reacted to their fatherly protector, oblivious of cameras, was the only humanising aspect.

In parallel, His Majesty has also championed the cause of peace in the Middle East, often breaking barriers to build understanding and keep constructive dialogue alive and centred around Palestinian rights and human values. King Hussein's flight to Tel Aviv to help push the Hebron accord into place was one such breaking of barriers. I wish Benjamin Netanyahu could show us equal compassion. He gave the go ahead for the Jabal Abu Ghneim colony in East Jerusalem on Feb. 25 — another brick in the wall of demographic power games, changing the face of Palestine beyond retrieval. Israeli troops shot a 55-year-old father while storming a West Bank village that same night.

For two days last February, reasonable alternatives seemed feasible at the "Fear of Peace" workshop held as part of the Inter-Faith Dialogue Programme (IFDP) of the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies (RIIFS), founded and patronised by His Royal Highness Crown Prince

Hassan to further mutual understanding through academic interaction among Muslims, Christians and Jews.

As an outsider, I first saw the participants as strangers. After two days of immersion, they became an argumentative, opinionated and biased whole. The relative bonhomie that this occasion was able to generate through the rare thrill of intelligent communication among opposite camps (from Jordan, Palestine, Egypt and Israel) was a welcome alternative to vocal (and physical) aggression even though tempered by the perception of blind spots in former enemies perception of each other. As Professor Shimon Shamir, outgoing Israeli ambassador to Jordan, put it, "to feel discouraged is to be in touch with reality."

Any intense pleasure felt at the intelligence of the exchanges that took place on the occasion of the workshop has been dissipated by the new onslaught of Har Homa. It is replaced by the barren despair felt every time Palestinian/Arab rights are trodden within this arrogant cycle of wrong-doing. Diplomatic initiatives seem futile "beau gestes" towards peace. Can Netanyahu show us otherwise? Compensatory sound bites and tactical feints at appeasement (with righteously loud complaints regarding Palestinians' use of violence to attain peace) do little to bind the open wound that Jerusalem is in every Arab's heart and mind.

We will never enjoy the rich mosaic that could be possible in the Middle East on our lifetime if this continues. Will it take another war to convince Netanyahu of that? Will it only be because agonised Jewish mothers, unlike Arab mothers who get relatively little TV coverage, will hold him eternally responsible for their sons' unnecessary deaths.

Diala Al Jabri,
Amman.

Terrible drivers

To the Editor:

HAVING, ON a most excellent Royal Jordanian airlines flight, read the letter "Clean business needed" (Jordan Times, March 1, 1997) from Fridrick Stein Tours, I feel obliged to agree with the writer in one important respect.

During our two days in Jordan in general the drivers on tours were terrible. For example, on March 1, going to Jerash from the Alia Gateway Hotel, the tour culminated with the car driver showing disgust at receiving a tip and virtually forcing us to almost double it. On the following day, going to Petra from the same hotel, time was wasted with compulsory stops at shops and refreshment sites and the senior driver (apart from repeating the necessity for tips to all relevant parties) limited the time that we could spend in Petra to less than two hours and chose a restaurant for lunch that was unsatisfactory — obviously as nobody except our party of eight was eating there!

The result of the above behaviour is that none of our party will be returning to Jordan and, probably more seriously, would not be comfortable recommending such a visit to friends or acquaintances. This is a great pity since the sites were fabulous, all four Royal Jordanian flights that my wife and I flew on were excellent and could not be faulted, and the Royal Jordanian tour representative at the Alia Gateway Hotel was exemplary in his attitude and performance.

Incidentally, as regards the site guides, we found them neither better nor worse, on average, than we have experienced in other parts of the world.

We would like to return to your country, but such will have to await receiving assurances of receiving better treatment from tour drivers.

A.R. Williams,
Dukes Wood Drive,
Gerards Cross, Bucks SL9 7LL,
England.

Weekender

Jordan Times, Thursday, March 6, 1997 **A**

Society on the Move

Cultivating all turfs for the Washington visit



Jordan Tourism Investment Chairman Ali Ghandour, architect Leen Fakhouri, flanked by popular British environmentalist Dr. David Bellamy (left) and Chairman of British Airways Sir Colin Marshall (right), beam with pride at the British Airways Annual Tourism for Tomorrow Award ceremony held in London at Hamilton Court. Mr. Ghandour and Ms. Fakhouri last week received the first prize for the Taybet Zaman Village and Hotel Resort as the most environmentally friendly hotel in the world.

Mona Juul, Middle East coordinator; Anne Marie Borgvad, advisor on Middle Eastern affairs; and Harriet Berg, executive officer in the minister's secretariat. Other officials will accompany the minister, including Jon Hanssen Bauer, research director of FAFO (Institute for Applied Social Science), the folks who worked on the "Living Conditions in Jordan" survey conducted with the Department of Statistics. The Norwegian delegation is scheduled to meet with HRH Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti. Their visit is intended to follow-up on bilateral cooperation in various spheres. They will arrive in Amman from the West Bank and return there. Ms. Kijewski is hosting a dinner at her residence March 11 on the occasion of the visit. Having been involved at nearly all levels of diplomatic dealings, political, economic, cultural, the ambassador has made many friends in Jordan. She is described by her colleagues as professionally generous with her contacts and knowledge, and the cultural community took special note of her appreciation of talent.

HACKS ON TOUR: In Belgium on a European Commission visitors' programme from journalists from the Mashreq are five of Jordan's hardworking reporters, two we can vouch for as they are former Jordan Times writers. The team is made up of Aida Tawil, reporter/translator for Al Rai Arabic daily; Hind-Lara Mango, a reporter for Jordan Radio's Foreign Service; Rula Abul Rous, editor/reporter for Jordan Television's French News Bulletin; Issam Majali, economic reporter for Al Aswaq Arabic daily; and Ali Qudrah, editor/reporter for the Jordan News Agency, Petra. Ms. Tawil and Ms. Mango are the former J.T. reporters. The five-person team's exhaustive schedule began upon arrival in Brussels on Sunday. They were to meet and hear presentations by some of the EC's senior most officers at its General Directorate including Marc Pierini, and the European Union desk officers for Egypt, the Palestinian Territories, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan: Henrik Osterby, Gavin Evans, Paola Pizzardi, Vincent DePaigue and Harold Cool. Their agenda also included personal contacts with representatives of the EC, the Council of the European Union, the Economic and Social Committee, regional committees and the European Parliament. The purpose of this visit is to familiarise the journalists with the EU, its institutions and the political position of the EU towards the individual countries of the Mashreq. The group is due back on Saturday, hopefully full of new knowledge and no worse for wear.

CHECK OUT THOSE WHEELS! A group of 60 German automobile fans will arrive in Jordan early next month via the Sheikh Hussein Bridge coming in 30 antique vehicles all the way from Germany. The group, whose spin through Jordan is being organised by the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) with sponsorship by T. Gargour & Fils, the agents for Mercedes Benz in Jordan, is expected to arrive on April 5 in Shuneh via the West Bank. Their road trip from Germany will take them as far as Italy, then its by ferry to Israel, across the West Bank and then Jordan. The caravan will go to Jerash, then head to Amman to check in at the Forre Grand Hotel. There could be run by Kan Zaman and Mount Nebo. German Ambassador Peter Mende will host a reception for them and antique car freaks. Their road map will take them south to Petra, Aqaba and through Eilat to Israel for their return trip home. Filling stations around the country will be selling a good amount of super fuel while the cars are here. A sampling of those you may spot in your neck of the woods includes: a 1928 Rolls Royce Phantom, a 1971 Mercedes coupé, a 1967 Porsche Targa, a 1964 Triumph TR4, a 1967 Land Rover 88, a 1958 Triumph TR3, and a 1960 BMW motorcycle with sidecar. Other vehicles include three Jaguar XK 120s from 1949, 1950 and 1952, and a DKW F91 Caprio from 1953. Needless to say there will be a selection on Volkswagen Beetles, the true classics. RAC Motor Sports Coordinator Walid Mhyar has his hands full with arrangements, but says this will be an exciting parade to watch for.

Meanwhile the RAC, which has been without a general manager since the resignation of Derek Ledger more than a year ago, remains so. Until a decision is made, the club is being run by Samir Jarrar, as acting general manager.

A PROFILE FIRST: The University of Jordan has produced a new general information publication on the university, its organisation, faculties, training and research centres, resources, regulations, etc. Printed in English for distribution primarily to foreign visitors, the publications will also be sent to all Jordanian universities.

embassies and other institutions with university affiliation. Entitled "Profile 1996-7," the colour-illustrated publication was supervised by Professor Isam Zablawi, Academic Vice President for the Scientific and Medical Faculties, and prepared by Associate Professor Ahmad Majdoubeli of the Department of English Language and Literature and Camilia Khalil Sweiss of the Office of the President. About 1,000 copies have been published, and as it looks like the first of its kind for a public university in Jordan, we may yet see others of its ilk pop up from other academic institutions.

DEMOCRATIC TAKE OFF: The Jordan Association of Air Traffic Controllers convened its general assembly meeting and held elections last week in what was reported to be a genuine upbeat exercise in democracy. The association has 115 members including retired controllers. At the elections all except one turned out for the meeting and elections. There were two blocs, competing, and in the end most of the winners came from one bloc. One woman from each bloc was fielded but neither won. The winners were from the younger generation: the first and second place winners each received 71 votes. Ballots could be cast for seven members. The ballot box was even part of the effort, as it was constructed by an association member who likes to hammer around in carpentry. Held at the Queen Noor Civil Aviation College, the elections results were as follows: Ziad Shdeifat, president, Mahmoud Tawil, vice president, Fawaz Khatab, Taysir Qurashi, Saleh Hamran, Atallah Abu Ghaylon, and Mustafa Keilani.

FOR ART'S SAKE: The Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts is hosting a fund-raising dinner tonight at its premises in Jebel Weibdeh. The event is held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor and is co-hosted by HRH Princess Wijdan Ali, president of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, and Sir Ewen Fergusson, Chairman of Coutts & Company, the private banking arm of National Westminster (NatWest), the oldest bank in the U.K. Funds are being raised to support the building of a new national gallery which will be a landmark of Arab and Islamic art in the Kingdom. The new edifice is to be located in the 6th Circle area. Coutts & Co. are donating \$10,000 and £5,000 to the cause. Around 200 people are expected to attend the JD\$50 per plate dinner. One of those fortunate diners and patron of the arts will be the winner of an original 19th century Orientalist painting by Gerome. The evening holds much promise, so let's hope it doesn't snow.

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD: Looking for new places to eat in Amman? Search no more, four new restaurants have just opened.

Fakhreddin, the new Arabic, with a penchant for Lebanese, eatery is the joint venture of Romero's proprietor Zeid Qussous, Al Qasr Hotel's Issam and Azam Fakhreddin, and Issa Masri. The team purchased and renovated the beautiful home of the late Prime Minister Fawzi Mulki, and for many years the residence of Spanish ambassadors to Jordan. The new restaurant seats 150 indoors and 200 outdoors. No private parties, weddings, just an eating experience created by a Lebanese chef. The second, West End, sits above Chile House near the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in the heart of Shmeisani. Owned by Omar Maani and Wafa Tuemeih, it is said to serve up some good steaks and great salads, but unfortunately no thick juicy hamburgers. But that could be they don't want to compete with themselves as Mr. Maani and another Tuemeih brother, Ziad, are the owners of Chile House. Manoush, the third new restaurant, is an Armenian eatery, managed by Melidos Der Garabedian (the owner of the former Little Armenia Restaurant). The restaurant has taken the space vacated by La Coquette which started out well but fell out of favour with its patrons for unknown reasons. Hopefully the new ethnic place to eat will prove more beautiful. Then there is Houston's, unrelated to the U.S. Western-Tex-Mex chain, but nonetheless a combination of restaurant and bar sides featuring the almighty hamburger, side dishes and condiments. And rumours stemming from a tabloid report that Ata Ali, the second most important restaurant chain in the Kingdom after Jabri, was splitting town and heading for Cairo have been dispelled. Owners of the two new Planet Donut shops (in Shmeisani and Abdoun), the Ata Ali folks don't look like a move is imminent. But if Mexican food is your folly, you may yet be in luck, as the American franchise restaurant El Torito is seeking to expand into its next horizon — the Arab World. An advertisement for potential franchisees and developers placed by El Torito's California-based representatives Mega Ventures, Inc., brought in several calls from interested parties, but also from hungry readers who thought the restaurant had already opened. The plan is to open the same style restaurants in Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, replete with formal dining rooms, family rooms, bars, cafes and terraces, as well as various theme days and nights.

Jennifer Hamarnah



The still nascent Jordan Rugby Team on the practice field in Cyprus where they competed against British military sides. Fairing rather well the team drew a tie at the end of one game, and only narrowly lost the second match 23 to 20. New team members Vladimir Dudokh and Nadar Qusheir were applauded by their teammates as the "men of the match."

For the upcoming official visit of His Majesty King Hussein to the United States to discuss assistance to the Kingdom as well as bilateral cooperation, Jordanian officials in Washington have organised meetings for two cabinet ministers to, in Washington-speak, "work Washington, and work the Hill." Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Minister of Information Marwan Muasher will head separately for the U.S. capital at the beginning of Jordan's business week (they were supposed to travel together, but Dr. Khalaf is to accompany Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti to Gaza and thus she will travel to Washington a day later) and starting Monday both will spend five days meeting with State Department officials, members of Congress on major Senate and House committees which either authorise or appropriate funds, key congressional aides, think tanks, Arab American and Jewish American organisations, and the press. The meeting with State Department principals was organised by the embassy in Washington, and the meetings with the congressional side, the think tanks, the interest groups and the press were handled by the Jordan Information Bureau. Drs. Khalaf and Muasher will be following up on the January visit to Jordan of mostly members of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee. The team of six Republicans and one Democrat at that time met with the King, HRH Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Abdul Hafiz Murei Kaabneh. The ministers' visit is aimed at working out the details and purpose of the King's visit ahead of his scheduled arrival in Washington on March 17th. This sort of follow-up and brainstorming works to provide a continuum for in-depth discussions between Jordan and the U.S., Jordanian officials believe. They say that the lawmakers, staffers and interest groups have shown significant interest in the Jordanian position on the peace process and its role in the region as well as on bilateral relations. Jordan will emphasise that its role in the peace process, and its political and economic reforms are serving as a model in the region. Up on Capitol Hill the Khalaf-Muasher team will meet with Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California), member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and ranking member of its Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Sub-committee; Congressman Sonny Callahan (R-Alabama) chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations (he headed the January delegation to Jordan); Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-New York), member of the House Appropriations Committee; Congressman Tom Lantos (D-California), member of the House International Relations Committee and ranking member of its International Operations and Human Rights Sub-committee and others.

MEMORIES & A MEMENTO: When Ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir departed Amman Wednesday, ending his two-year tenure as the first Israeli ambassador to the Kingdom, he was carrying with him a sign of recognition and appreciation. Last week, His Majesty King Hussein presented the Istiklal Medal of the First Order on Professor Shamir. There is no doubt that the medal was one of the personal items he was carrying when Prof. Shamir and his wife Daniella returned home in two tightly packed vehicles.

PATIENCE PREVAILS:

The government of Spain last Friday took the long-awaited decision to appoint a new ambassador to Jordan. Thus, Juan Manuel Cabrera, who has been chief envoy of Spain in Amman for five and a half years will head to Madrid by the end of March or early April. Then within a month's time he will know whether his next assignment will be home-based or once again abroad. He will be succeeded by Eudaldo (Lalo) Mirapeix, a career diplomat and close friend of Mr. Cabrera. Mr. Mirapeix, who is from the Catalonia province, is arriving from his previous post as ambassador to Havana, Cuba. Prior to that he was ambassador in Cairo. He will arrive with his wife, Bettina. Mr. Cabrera said he would miss Jordan and its people immensely, but that he is very glad to know that Mr. Mirapeix will be taking over in his stead.



Juan Manuel Cabrera

UP THE LADDER:

Tove Kijewski, the first woman ambassador to Jordan, will leave her post in Amman on March 26, and head for bigger and brighter horizons. Ms. Kijewski presented her credentials as head of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Jordan, also a first, in September 1994. Her tenures on assignments abroad have brought her up to the 10-year limit imposed by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry. So it would be back to Oslo for the highly active diplomat. But, a boring desk job is far from what Ms. Kijewski will be taking on. It just so happens that the Ministry of Trade will be taking in the Department of International Trade, which, for the last 10 years, has been in the hands of the Foreign Ministry. Foreign service officials see the affairs of international trade as being politically important in areas such as international relations, human rights, labour issues, even culture, and thus would require someone with just that sort of experience to set up the department under its new roof. Enter Ms. Kijewski, who has been deputised to that post for two years.

Ambassador Kijewski's work here ends on a busy note as Norway's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Egel arrives in Amman for a one-day visit next week, accompanied by a delegation of ministry officials: Ambassador



Tove Kijewski

FUSION NOT FISSION: A Jordanian scientist, who, in the mid-1940s went to the United States to attend university, has developed a fusion theory that could make space travel into deep space, that is to Jupiter and beyond, a reality. The scientist is Terry (Tariq) Kamnash, a professor of nuclear engineering at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Prof. Kamnash received his BSc from Cornell University in New York, his MSc from Pennsylvania State University, and his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He was kept on at his last alma mater as an assistant professor, and in record time he worked through the ranks to full professor. He now also holds the chair professorship in nuclear engineering. The brother of Senator Amer Khamnash, Prof. Kamnash (as he spells it) is a pioneer in fusion theory. He believes that the main goal of current fusion research is power generation. The theory he has developed will be tested on an experimental reactor perhaps in early 1998. The experiment employs Prof. Kamnash's concept of "gasdynamic mirror fusion." Too complicated to explain here, suffice it to say that the challenge is to generate a controlled, sustained fusion that generates more power than it consumes. The mirror fusion project is one of several funded by NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) advanced propulsion programme and is based at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama. Prof. Kamnash visits Jordan, but not as often as his family here would like him too. One of those visits, however, was at the invitation of HRH Crown Prince Hassan to come and lecture students on his field of specialisation. We'll have to keep a quick eye out for the news on his work.

WINNER TAKES TWO: Friends of Archaeology (FoA) have a new board of directors. At its annual general meeting, FoA elected University of Jordan Department of Architecture instructor Leen Fakhouri as president, succeeding columnist and publisher Rami Khouri, who held the post twice, non-consecutively, for six years. Ms. Fakhouri received her BSc in architecture from the University of Jordan and her MSc in conservation from York University in England. It has been a special month for the young architect as she also shared in winning the British Airways annual Tourism for Tomorrow Global Award for her work as the architectural team leader charged with renovating the 19th century village of Taybeh into Taybet Zaman Village and Hotel Resort. The award selected Taybet Zaman as the world's most environmentally friendly hotel. The other members of the FoA board, who will oversee FoA activities such as field trips, lectures and even trips abroad, are: Vice President Raouf Dabbas, a businessman who is also president of Friends of the Environment Society; Secretary Rana Naber, a chief accountant, and standing members Khalil Taslaq, Ghassan Badran, both doctors, Ghazi Saudi, a former president, Kathy Sullivan, a writer, Habib Habash of the Department of Tourism and Mohammad Wahib of the Department of Antiquities. Messrs. Hubash and Wahib are new FoA members. The Friends of Archaeology was established in Jordan in 1958. It operated under the auspices of the Department of Antiquities until 1990 when it became an independent society.

These good old CD-ROMs

By Jean-Claude Elias

A FEW months ago a lady for whom I have the most sincere respect and admiration gave me a magnificent book — the original 1865 (yes, eighteen hundred...) edition of a songbook of old popular songs from Brittany, in France. The songs, compiled by Francois Coppee, a well-known musicologist of the nineteenth century, were all presented with the music score, the lyrics in Brittany's local dialect (Breton) and their translation in standard French. More than the cultural value of the subject, the very physical contact with the book gave (and still gives) me a rare pleasure. The pages are slowly turning to yellow with small brown spots here and there, and the cover has an unusual, but not unpleasant smell. The book, overall, is in good condition.

Apart from my natural interest for music, I was surprised at my own interest for the book. After all it's not the first one I have. It's not even the first old edition I enjoy possessing. Years ago I acquired a rare edition of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's "La Nouvelle Eloise," this one much older than the music book. No, my unusual interest for this songbook was caused by the recent years of excessive computing and by a couple of years of browsing through CD-ROMs of all kinds, ignoring traditional books almost completely. Though it may sound contradictory, I found new life in old books.

Now that more and more material is published in the form of CD-ROM computer laser discs, how are we going to "hold" a CD, feel it, smell it? I know that culture is supposed to be food for the brain not for the stomach and that a novel, a story or an encyclopedia is not a fruit or a vegetable. But the fact remains that we are still human beings,

chip talk



made of flesh and blood. We have developed a warm, sentimental relationship with books. Our current relationship with CD-ROMs is still cold.

The Internet is taking this metamorphosis even further. To read, to look for information, one doesn't necessarily have to have a CD-ROM disc since everything is available on the world's network. While nobody would ever think of contesting the efficiency of the new systems (CD-ROMs, computers, Internet), some are asking whether our aim precisely should be something else rather than plain efficiency.

What I really fear is that by the time our children's children get to love their CDs and have a somewhat human relationship with them, more or less similar to what we had with books, the technology will be already abandoned and replaced by another. Which means that at the pace technology is changing, nobody will ever get the time, the chance to truly adapt and feel good with it. Someone, sometime in the twenty second century will look at a CD-ROM and will say: These good old CD-ROMs, that was something.

On the absence of a public debate in the city

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen



DAY AFTER day, people keep hearing the news that modernisation and efficiency are the new order of business. And day after day, it remains a pity that such concepts remain talked about fantasies that never seem to find room in the real world.

One place that could do a great deal with such concepts is the Income Tax Department.

A recent experience at this department has proved to me that all it takes is a decent and well-mannered employee to talk you through your paperwork so that you can be on your way as soon as possible.

I was so glad to have met such an employee who offered to help me after an argument I had with another who refused to even talk to me to tell me what papers I was missing. As it later turned out, my papers were all there.

What I suggest here is that, in the future, insolent characters never be allowed to be in a position where they can insult rather than serve their fellow citizens. Yes I can suggest this, but I doubt that anyone would listen. Hardly anyone ever does. But in spite of this, we have to talk about things.

One such thing that should be talked about a great deal has to do with the process by which the Amman Municipality decides single-handedly to rip the Third Circle out of the heart of Amman and to stick a couple of tunnels in its place.

It was not so long ago that in this same column I had written about how much more Amman can get out of this circle if it were to be planted with palm trees and made more accessible to pedestrians.

Apparently, someone had read that piece and decided to take, what seemed to be, the appropriate action by rubbing this aspiring-to-be green space off the map.

While the intention here is not to be critical, nor sentimental, the argument which still holds is that there are areas in the outskirts of Amman, areas like the Seventh Circle, which can make better use of the money, and the

tunnels, especially when calculations for the future are taken into consideration.

It is forecast that traffic will more than double in the area around the Seventh Circle while it remains generally accepted that it has reached its saturation peak around the Third Circle.

On the practical side of things, it would be far better to distribute the traffic in the area around the Third Circle into roads which are parallel to those which feed into and out of the roundabout, and invest our money in a better way by improving the area around the traffic lights where the Seventh Circle used to once stand.

It is our hope that the Amman Municipality will decide for once to stop thinking about "prestige projects" and decide to do things that actually help people.

Things like sorting out the rain water ponds and streams into which future generations of Jordanians are getting sucked into.

What remains absolutely painful about all of this is the absence of a national debate about how to spend public funds in our city and where to spend them.

It is here that a constructive debate and a series of public enquiries, chaired by responsible people, are urgently needed to determine where a tunnel is needed, and whether an international park is the sort of thing that a capital of a developing country actually needs.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, March 6, 1997

Monday, March 10, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:08	Ovide & The Gang & Raw Toonage
2:30	Curiosity Show
3:00	They Came From Outer Space
4:00	N.B.A. Basketball
5:00	Out Of This World
5:30	French Programmes
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Parenthood
8:00	Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
8:30	The American Chart Show
9:10	Kung Fu-The Legend Continues
10:00	News In English
10:25	Feature Film — Regina
	Starring: Ava Gardner & Ray Sharkey
12:00	Taratata

Friday, March 7, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:08	The Muppet Show
2:30	Flintstones
3:00	See How They Grow
3:15	French Programme
4:00	Crystal Maze
5:00	News Flash
5:10	Science & Space Encyclopedia
5:30	French Programmes
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	America's Funniest Home Videos
8:00	The Health Show
8:30	Hawkeye
9:10	Frontline (Doc.)
10:00	News In English
10:25	Feature Film — Pennies From Heaven
	Starring: Steve Martin & Bernadette Peter

Saturday, March 8, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:08	Adventures of Mickey & Donald
2:30	Aladdin (Cartoon)
3:00	French Programme
4:00	Gillette (Sports)
4:30	Innovation (Doc.)
5:00	Idol 23.5
5:25	Blue Heelers
6:00	French Programme
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Hanging With Mr. Cooper
8:00	Magazine — Of (Doc.)
8:30	Pepsi
9:10	Lois & Clark — The New Adventures Of Superman
10:00	News In English
10:25	MacGyver
11:00	Feature Film — Fighting For My Daughter
	Starring: Lindsay Wagner & Chad Lowe

Sunday, March 9, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:08	Jonny Quest (Cartoon)
2:30	Problem Child (Cartoon)
3:00	French Programme
4:00	Global Family (Doc.)
4:30	Energy Express
4:50	Our World, Their World
5:15	All Our Children
6:00	French Programmes
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
8:00	World Echo (Doc.)
8:30	Side Effects
9:10	Tycoons (Doc.)
10:00	News In English
10:25	Hot Shots
11:00	Sisters

Tuesday, March 11, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:08	Budgie — The Little Helicopter
2:30	Grimmy
3:00	French Programmes
4:00	Super Sport Follies
4:30	Dog House
5:00	Preserving For The Taste Of It
5:15	Album Show
6:00	French Programme
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Murphy Brown
8:00	Super Stars Of Action (Bruce Willis)
8:30	Encounter
9:10	The Nature Of Things
10:00	News In English
10:25	Snowy River
12:00	Mission Impossible

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:08	The Muppet Show
2:30	Adventures On The Rainbow Pond
3:00	French Programme
4:00	America's Funniest People
4:25	Escape From Jupiter
4:50	Challenge (Doc.)
5:15	Border Town
6:00	French Programmes
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Grace Under Fire
8:00	The Fifth Estate (Doc.)
9:10	Spencer For Hire
10:00	News In English
10:25	Cobra
11:00	Hart To Hart

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shugair

AMAZING FACTS

Georgian mules," he answered.

*A SCYTHE had been plunged into a New Zealandan's head leaving a seven-centimetre deep cut in his skull.

* AN AMERICAN invented a hair-cutting helmet equipped with electric coils that burn hair to the required height.

* THERE EXISTS in Hawaii a one-room hotel constructed on a tree trunk.

* A VIOLENT hurricane blew up a church in Illinois that carried away its tower for 30 kilometres. That was in June, 1877.

* IN THE past, the Sri Lankans used to feed their children sandwiches containing bananas and lizards' tongues believing that it would make them eloquent orators when they grow up.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What are a gasket, a chamfer, a crank, a gantry and a fish-plate?

2. Is a man liable in law if....
(a) his dog bites a passer-by?
(b) his cow attacks a person on a public highway?
(c) his wife contracts debts in his name?
(d) he organises a raffle at a bazaar?

(e) sparks from his traction-engine on the roadway set fire to a field of corn?

3. Which of the following are edible? — bamboo shoots, rhubarb leaves, bracken shoots, young nettles, liver, palm hearts, rattlesnake, python, hedgehog, octopus.

4. Which of the following articles were known to the Romans? — razor, scissors, needle, pen-hib, glass, sugar, soap, paper, concrete, linen.

5. What were the four voyages made by Gulliver?

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

* Fear God.	Ittaqil-lah.
* Trust in God.	Tawakkal alal-lah.
* God has taken her unto Him.	Tawaffahal-lah.
* He professed belief in the unity of God.	Wahaddal-lah.
* I do this for the sake of God.	Af'al thalek lewaj'he'l-lah.
* He passed away into God mercy.	Intaqala ala rahmatil-lah.
* God has no partner whatsoever.	Ma lil-lah shareek.
* My God grant you enjoyment through your life.	Matta'akal-lah.
* In the name of God, the benevolent, the merciful.	Bismillah ar-rahman ar-raheem.
* There is no god but Allah.	La elaha illa Allah.

JOKES

* ONCE a boy went to Mozart and asked him: "What should I do to compose a symphony?"
"You're still young boy. Why don't you compose simple tunes?"
"But you've composed a symphony when you were ten, haven't you?" said the little boy.
"That's right, but I didn't ask anybody how to compose it," came the great musician's prompt answer.

* A VERY blond photographer had a black baby.
"Dummed be the devil! I haven't given him adequate light," said the man in wonder.

* AN AMERICAN demanded setting up a statue in the parliament court in Georgia.
"What made you think of such a thing?" someone said to him.
"We ought to remind the coming generations of the great

PUZZLES

(A) INSERT THE MISSING NUMBER:

14	9	5
21	8	13
28	9	?

(B) UNDERLINE THE ODD-MAN-OUT:

opulent detergent station hiding ability police

(C) FIND THE WORDS IN BRACKETS:

D = (sheep) = (2 small draught of spirit)

(D) First class, and yet a deadly sin.
Two letters seek. If five, much is within.

What am I?

Arts & Culture

Jordan Times, Thursday, March 6, 1997

Singapore bands struggle to pick up beat

By Josephine Ng
Reuter

SINGAPORE — The name and sounds of Force Vomit do not go down well with most Singaporeans, but the local rock band has caused a flutter of excitement across the tiny island city.

Spacemen Over Malaysia, a Force Vomit song, was broadcast to the world by John Peel, veteran disc jockey of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service.

The airplay was a big deal for the struggling Singapore music industry, which has made few inroads at home or abroad. Singapore pop and rock music is still something of an underground phenomenon in the conservative country.

Force Vomit is the second Singapore band Peel has featured. The Padres are expected to release their first album with Taiwan's Rock Records in March. Their single, Radio Station, aired on the BBC three years ago.

"It's ironic. Why is it that a foreigner has to tell you that it's all right (to listen to Singapore bands)?" said Philip Cheah, editor of Bigo, a Singapore music magazine.

Bigo had sent Force Vomit and Padres songs to Peel. They were released on the

magazine's series of singles compilations.

Calls for more local support

Cheah said a big stumbling block facing home-grown bands was the lack of support from local radio stations.

"Artistically, the talent is there but the audience is in the dark. Mediawise, it's quite a blackout, especially the broadcast media, while the print media has been more active," he said.

While bands aim to strike a chord outside Singapore, a home audience was important and hence the role of local broadcasting stations was key, industry analysts said.

"It helps to create a buzz on our home ground first. People in the U.S. and Europe want to know what's going on in Asia and they want to know how the bands have fared at home," said Jimmy Wee, managing director of Japan's CD and video distributor Pony Canyon in Singapore.

Radio stations could cultivate Singaporean tastes by playing more music from Singapore bands, as in Thailand and the Philippines, where at least 50 per cent of the music played was local, said Connie Tay, Singapore marketing plan-

ner for Taiwan's Rock Records.

"We need more music fans to be programme managers," Cheah added.

Recently, a few more clubs have become more receptive to letting Singapore bands perform. But bands lament that this is a far cry from major cities like London and New York, where local groups dominate pubs and clubs.

"Over here, if people want to hear original local music, they don't know where to go and have to wait for ad-hoc gigs," Patrick Chng, lead singer of Oddfellows said in a Straits Times report in January.

Pop culture stepping up

Cheah said Singapore had its own pop culture. Since 1987, a generation of new bands had mushroomed and there were now more than 100 bands in the city-state of three million people.

"The fact that Force Vomit is in this week's programme says a lot," Peel told the daily Straits Times newspaper in January.

Singapore analysts say the rock and pop music industry was still taking baby steps but hoped that recent developments would culminate in exportable products for the Asian region.

Rock Records and Japan's

Pony Canyon, in conjunction with Singapore's recently formed Springroll Creative Entertainment Agency, are putting out albums of local bands and promoting them in the Asia-Pacific region.

Cheah of Bigo said this move by independent labels could be a way to offer a fresh product when the traditional business of selling pop and rock music from the West was facing a slump.

For instance, Rock Records have signed the Padres, the first Singapore band to have a formal contract. Tay of Rock Records said the company aimed to sell the Padres as a regional artist rather than a Singapore group.

The group writes original songs on local subjects but sound like British and American "alternative" rock bands. It could ride on the mini explosion for such music in Asia, she said. The Padres members also look good, she added.

Rock Records hope to take the Padres to perform in Hong Kong at a music conference in May, which may spin off into a small Asian tour, she said.

English to pave the way

Wee, of Pony Canyon and who co-owns Springroll,



A local band, The Padres, play at a disco in Singapore. The band is expected to release its first album with Taiwan's Rock Records in March. Singapore analysts say that the rock and pop music industry was still taking baby steps but hoped that recent developments would culminate in exportable products for the Asian region (Reuter photo)

said Singapore bands had one advantage — they sing in English.

He said Taiwanese and Hong Kong bands, and to a

large extent Japanese groups, were limited to their own domestic markets because they did not sing in English.

"English is the way to go. Singapore has a better chance of promoting its bands than other territories. But Singapore is so caught

up with the Singapore thing. We should just create great music and people will know where we are from," said Wee.

Jack Palance ponders the hurry of a Hollywood life and the poetry of trees

By Dennis Anderson
The Associated Press

TEHACHAPI, California — It's been more than 40 years since Jack Palance filled the big screen as the angel of death, the hired gun who smirks, then kills, in the movie Shane.

It's been a fast six years since the 77-year-old star used a one-handed push-up at the Academy Awards to advertise he was an actor looking for work.

But these days, the actor who added a sinister elegance to villainy and contributed to the golden age of television with his "live" star turn in "Requiem for a Heavyweight," compares his life and career to that of a tree.

Palance considers himself an oak, like the ones that spread their acorns across

the rolling hills of his 1,300-acre (530-hectare) cattle ranch in the cradle of the fog-shrouded Tehachapi Mountains, 160 kilometres due north of Hollywood.

Trees often get a better deal in life than people. Palance figures, and he has expressed those sentiments in a book-length poem called *The Forest Of Love*, which details a man's frank yearnings for love and intimacy with women through the autumn of his years.

Palance gives poetry readings at college campuses and bookstores throughout the country.

And, if his public is somewhat surprised at such sensitivity from one of film's fiercest bad guys, fans were equally blown away when he pulled his on-camera stunt after winning his best supporting actor

Oscar for playing the curmudgeonly curly in *City Slickers*.

Even on the night of victory, he displayed some of the anxieties and doubts that are part of any actor's life. But he's sure no one will duplicate that push-up.

"They'd say it's already been done," he reflects.

Palance, 77, has been busy since the 1991 Oscar ceremonies, making more movies and commercials. But as he sits in his comfortable ranch home, surrounded by western art and cowboy bronze works, he discusses how his professional view has mellowed.

"I don't really care if I'm in another film," he says. "Films are beautiful ... but they should be done with the generations of now."

"It's curious — the young can be made up to play the

old, but the old cannot be made up to play the young."

And he doesn't spend time dwelling on the movies in which he's been. "It's just something that was. A walk in the forest is more important than thinking about myself as an actor," he says.

He continues to work —

his latest project a remake of "Heidi." Palance is Heidi's grandfather. That's a career turn for a guy who played Attila the Hun in *Sign of the Cross* and Fidel Castro in *Che*, and who won an Emmy early in his career for his role as the bloodied but unbowed boxer in *Rod Serling's Requiem For A Heavyweight*.

But when he was at Stanford University's Drama School after World War II, he always got the lighter roles, and expected to keep

playing it light right up until his film debut in 1950 as a gangster carrying bubonic plague in *Panic In The Streets*.

Columnist Hedda Hopper once wrote of Palance, "here's a man who could play Frankenstein without makeup."

Such words can hurt. Palance, who worked in the coal mines of Pennsylvania and won prize-money boxing, isn't shy about being known as a tough guy. But he is a tender, even vulnerable, tough guy.

Hopper, who rarely took anything back, recounted the hard edge of her words, writing in 1954, "I had no idea then that Jack was shy, sensitive and very intelligent."

Palance says he wouldn't mind trading places with the trees of his poetic forest.

"Some of the trees on this property are over 500 years old," he says, looking out the window of his rambling ranch home. "When you think about the longevity of a tree, compared to a human, it makes you wonder — it makes you think, maybe you should have been a tree."

Palance's career span is remarkable. He's worked with some of the great talents of film such as Elia Kazan and George Stevens. And he's shared the screen with stars such as Alan Ladd, Burt Lancaster and Lee Marvin.

Some films have been memorable, such as the mercenary in *Shane*, the impassioned Mexican rebel chieftain in *The Professionals* and the aging cowhand of *Monty Walsh*.

For television, he had star-

ring roles in *Dracula* and *Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde* — menacing characters who always oozed pathos from those deep-set eyes.

Yet, with more than 130 films, Palance's musings about his dramatic contributions are modest, pained and even uncomfortable.

"If an actor is lucky, he will get a number of good roles," Palance says, staring at the large, knobby hands that once picked coal slate from the mines of Lattimer, Pennsylvania.

"The actor is giving the message somebody else has given. The actor is given more credit than they give to anybody else, but the message can be brought by another actor. Given a good role, most actors will do it well."

Palance's greatest esteem for actors is reserved for

those of an earlier Hollywood — James Cagney, Wallace Beery and Victor McLaglen. He once refused an offer to remake Sean O'Casey's *The Informer* because he didn't think he could exceed McLaglen's performance.

Palance reveres Charles Laughton, relishing his role as Captain Bligh in *Mutiny On The Bounty*. Among younger actors, he thinks highly of Tom Hanks.

"I don't see very many new films, but when I saw *Forrest Gump* I was so impressed that it made me wary of myself for not going out to films very often. People who love films want to see everything," he says.

He smiles, lights a cigar and blows a puff of smoke. Then, he ushers a visitor out to see some of the trees on his ranch.

Year after Oscar protest, race still counts in Hollywood

By Lynn Elber
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — One year ago, the Rev. Jesse Jackson used the Academy Awards as a vehicle to protest the film industry's exclusion of blacks and other minorities.

This year, he could recycle his script with virtually no rewrites.

Although some Hollywood observers find cause for limited optimism, many agree that nonwhites continue to face enormous challenges in launching and sustaining an acting, writing or directing career.

And while a few new films such as *Rosewood* and *Set It Off* honestly explore black life, they are rarities in an industry — and a society — with a new and troubling awareness of deep racial divisions.

"Change has been minimal at best. Very, very minimal," said Frank Berry, an official of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People. "There is so much room for improvement. For growth, we don't want to focus on band-aid cover-ups."

It is true that A-list actors such as Morgan Freeman and Denzel Washington consistently find work. It's true the historical drama *Rosewood* got studio backing. And unconventional projects such as *Set It Off*, a heist film with black women as the he-

roes, are nurtured by smaller companies.

All suggest change. But widespread, consequential progress is not supported by the statistics of groups such as the Writers Guild of America (WGA).

Blacks represent just 2.6 per cent of the WGA membership, as they did a year ago. In the past five years, employment of black writers has increased just about 1 per cent. Hispanics are about 1 per cent of the WGA, with Asians about .5 per cent.

By comparison, blacks make up 12 per cent of the U.S. population, while Hispanics represent about 10 per cent and Asians about 3.5 per cent.

"I don't know what you could point to to say things are getting better," said Zara Buggs-Taylor, the guild's executive administrator for employment diversity.

Directors Guild of America statistics also show that minorities consistently are bypassed in hiring. According to the latest figures available, for 1995, less than 4 per cent of directing work went to nonwhites, including blacks, Hispanics and Asians.

Among actors, recent years have brought some improvement. Between 1991 and 1995, employment of black actors in the Screen Actors Guild increased from 11 per cent to 13 per cent of the guild total.

For black actresses,

there was a 3 per cent increase, to 13 per cent.

Among minorities overall, employment for actors rose from 15 per cent in 1991 to 19 per cent in 1995; for actresses, the figure went from 14 per cent to 18 per cent.

The number of minority Oscar nominees, which initially provoked Rev. Jackson's criticism, is little changed. Hollywood's famed golden symbol of excellence also is a dubious monument to the limited inroads made by non-whites.

Cuba Gooding Jr. of *Jerry Maguire* and Marianne Jean-Baptiste of *Secrets And Lies*, both black, are the only minority actors nominated this year. A handful of non-white nominees are found in categories such as best documentary short.

Oscar's record is defended by academy Executive Director Bruce Davis, who said worthy performances are recognised without regard to colour.

"It seems to me the good news this year is not that there were two black performers nominated, but the two black performers deserve to be nominated," he said.

If they had been made out of a "sense of organisational obligation," he said, "we would have started down a very unfortunate path."

But there are subtle signs of Hollywood's awkward handling of race. *Ghosts Of Mississippi*, about the murder

of black civil rights activist Medgar Evers, received an Oscar nod for James Woods' portrayal of Evers' killer, Byron De La Beckwith.

A nomination for the actor playing Evers was unlikely: The character received bare minutes of screen time as Hollywood chose to tell the story mostly through the eyes of the white participants.

"As we said last year, the Oscars are the end of the process, and the paucity of nominations is a reflection of the need to have more people of colour involved at the beginning, middle and final stages of film work," Rev. Jackson's Rainbow-Push Coalition said in a recent statement.

"We said a year ago and we say it today: Hollywood must do a better job in reflecting the cultural diversity of society."

The coalition, which staged Oscar-night protests in 20 cities last year, said the impact of its plea has yet to be seen. The group is weighing possible action during the upcoming March 24 ceremony.

For its part, the NAACP plans a comprehensive examination of the "deep-rooted problem" of discrimination, Berry said. That might result in a future plan of attack including "picketing to lawsuits to anything in between," he said.

Hollywood's heightened sensitivity to race

began well before Rev. Jackson's protest, says Jesse Rhines, an assistant professor of political economy at Rutgers University and author of *Black Film-White Money*.

Black reaction to O.J. Simpson's 1995 murder acquittal "was such a huge shock to white people," Rhines said. "They realised there's something so fundamentally different, not just in terms of skin colour, but in the cultures, the perceptions of the world."

Rhines says he feels an unprecedented optimism that in this post-Simpson world Hollywood is finally ready for the black perspective. He points to director John Singleton's *Rosewood* as one proof.

"This is an African-American view of the way blacks have been treated historically," he said.

Others share his belief that the times are slowly changing, whether Hollywood is ready or not. Independent and small-studio films, which dominated the best-picture Oscar category this year, are offering black filmmakers an alternative.

Theodore Witcher, writer-director of New Line Cinema's upcoming black romance "Love Jones" — voted audience favourite at this year's Sundance Film Festival — is among those seizing the opportunity.

"I don't think we could have gotten the movie made anywhere else,"

Witcher said. Companies are realising that niche pictures, made at a reasonable price (under \$10 million for "love Jones"), can be profitable.

Others are taking even more indirect routes to break down Hollywood's barriers.

Last March, actress Sheryl Lee Ralph was a veritable poster child for Hollywood's exclusion of blacks.

Prominently featured in the *People* magazine article, Ralph recounted her difficulties in finding movie work after a dazzling, Tony Award-winning Broadway turn in 1982's *Dreamgirls*.

Flash forward to the present: Ralph is writing, directing, producing and co-starring in the movie *Secrets and Angling* for studio backing. Hollywood has not undergone an abrupt change, but Ralph did.

"I called up Alfre Woodard. I called up Robin Givens. I called up Victoria Rowell. I said, 'read this script. If you like it, call me back.' Next thing I knew we were shooting it," Ralph said, using studio space borrowed from her UPN sitcom, *Moesha*.

"Sometimes you can't wait for somebody to give you permission," she adds. "Sometimes you have to take the permission and know, 'hey, I can go there.'"

Filmmaker reopens Africa's old wounds

By Jeff Koinange
Reuter

OUAGADOUGOU — Africa's top film festival premiered a U.S.-made film that is sure to stir up rage for its harrowing tale of a failed revolt aboard a slave trading ship in the 19th century.

But the film's maker, Joel Ben Marsden, has no apologies for his first feature-length film.

"That's what happened and it's been documented and it must be shown before we continue to repeat the mistakes of the past," said Marsden.

Ill Gotten Gains, which had its premiere Monday at Fespaco '97 in Burkina Faso, tells the story of a failed revolt on a slave ship off West Africa 127 years ago.

Shot in black and white, it is a tale of rape, torture, humiliation and murder.

"It was a painful period for many people but it's a period that must be told because we cannot allow that time to be forgotten," said the independent filmmaker.

"It reflects our society as it is today. Not much has changed since the end of slavery," he said.

Marsden, 27, is not an African-American in search of his roots. Born in New York City of Jewish parents, he was raised in Europe and the Far East but Africa and the trans-Atlantic trade that uprooted millions of its sons and daughters and created a diaspora in the new world caught his imagination.

"I always knew I would end up here at some point in my life," he told Reuters following the open-air showing of his film in Ouagadougou's Place de la Resistance.

"When I started writing the script for the film I knew it was only a matter of time."

Marsden shot the film, which is high on emotion, off Cameroon on a replica of the cargo ships that each carried hundreds of slaves in appalling and cramped conditions.

He completed the project only a few weeks ago — which explained the lack of French subtitles at a festival and in a country where French is the dominant language.

"It's a very disturbing film and one that's going to raise a lot of emotions. It's going to get a lot of black people very angry," Fespaco first timer Laurentia Quarachie from Ghana said after the showing.

About 5,000 people attended the premier, mostly Europeans.

The film stars Djimon, a former model venturing into acting. Deandre Bonds and Eartha Kitt.

Fespaco, held every two years in this dusty West African nation, aims to boost Africa's film industry — which like many other sectors in the continent is plagued by lack of cash and distribution problems.

But for Marsden, who has spent three years researching, writing, shooting and editing the film, it is the fulfilment of a dream.

"This is what I've been waiting for all my life," he said after the premiere. But he doesn't plan to stop there.

Hopes for tackling HIV/AIDS discrimination in Tanzania

By Pudenciana Temba

DAR ES SALAAM — Tackling AIDS discrimination has moved a notch up in Tanzania's health and human rights agenda.

A group of top lawyers, policy-makers and doctors last month agreed to target those found guilty of abusing the human rights of people with HIV/AIDS. And last summer the government announced plans to ban AIDS discrimination.

HIV threatens the human rights and dignity of millions of people worldwide. Until now most governments in East Africa, the region most seriously affected by the disease, have concentrated on policies designed to prevent the spread of the virus. These include condom promotion and information campaigns. Increasingly, however, protection of the human rights of people with HIV/AIDS has been seen as a key element in AIDS prevention. Experts say discrimination only pushes people with HIV/AIDS underground and encourages its spread.

In Tanzania, there had been few formal moves to address human rights abuses against people with HIV, save last summer's announcement. But if the outcome of a recent workshop in Dar es Salaam is any indication, things could change for the better.

For a start, policy-makers in Tanzania are being criticised by rights activists for being slow to recognise human rights abuses against people with HIV.

"No cases have been brought to court, few articles have been written and many non-governmental organisations

(NGOs) say they do not have the capacity to deal with the problem and no special programmes had been developed to help them," says Ann Strode, a human rights lawyer working for the United Nations to help Tanzania implement its new anti-discrimination policy.

The workshop on Law, Ethics and Human Rights and HIV/AIDS provided a forum for views on implementation with doctors, magistrates, policy-makers and people living with HIV participating. The workshop comes out of a U.N. initiative that has been followed in many developing countries. In 1992, the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), responding to reports of widespread discrimination against people with HIV, began to encourage countries in sub-Saharan Africa to establish regional networks on ethics, law and HIV.

Made up of doctors, lawyers, NGOs and others, the networks aim to influence existing legislation and develop new policies to protect the rights of people with HIV and those particularly vulnerable to infection, such as women, migrant labourers and prisoners.

Tanzania is the fifteenth country to establish such a network — the workshop was organised by the network. Other countries include Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, Senegal and Ivory Coast.

Tanzania is among the countries most seriously affected by HIV. About 400,000 of its 27 million people have developed AIDS and 1.2 million are thought to be HIV-positive, according to the World Health Organi-

sation.

The number of infected people is expected to double by the year 2000. Poverty, gender inequality and sexually transmitted diseases are believed to contribute to the spread of HIV in Tanzania.

Few formal studies of discrimination against people with HIV have been conducted in Tanzania, but the workshop heard testimonies from six people which illustrated how those infected must bear not only the burden of the disease but also discrimination.

Some had lost their jobs; a widow whose husband died of AIDS has been prevented from inheriting his property; a man told of being tested for HIV without his consent; and another was denied insurance. Most described being rejected by their immediate communities.

Even medical professionals discriminate against patients with HIV, according to Yohana Mashalla from the Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences. Some doctors disclose information about patients without patient consent. Others refuse adequate treatment.

A study in Tanzania and Kenya revealed that some nurses had a negative attitude towards the duty to care for patients with AIDS. Dr. Mashalla said.

The workshop heard how discrimination against people with HIV in Tanzania was not only a social problem, but was also rooted in laws not designed to address AIDS issues. Guidelines on testing, control and management of HIV, issued by the Ministry of

Health in 1989 and based on international norms, had failed to protect the rights of infected people.

A number of laws, including the Criminal Procedures Act 1985, require doctors to tender medical reports before the courts, exposing people with HIV to discrimination, particularly in prisons.

Labour laws permit organisations with in-house medical facilities to force employees to undergo HIV testing. Those found positive are sent home or sacked — so they lose access to medical care as well as employment.

Under the country's Evidence Act, rape victims are required to provide an excessive burden of proof which, according to legal experts, violates their privacy, particularly if there is a question of HIV transmission.

At the workshop, participants recommended a review of the national AIDS policy and changes in the law. There were strong calls for a ban on HIV-testing by employers, and for police officers and prison wardens to be trained on the legal aspects of HIV/AIDS.

Legal support services for people with HIV facing discrimination are also needed. And a computer database will now be used to monitor rights abuses of people with HIV/AIDS in Tanzania.

How well the new national networks succeed remains to be seen. All existing networks will have to present evaluations of their work to the UNDP at a conference in Ivory Coast in May. Observers hope that progress in Tanzania will be swift — Panos Features.

'Drug cocktails help advanced AIDS cases'

By Joanne Kenen
Reuter

WASHINGTON — A major study of AIDS therapies showed that the new drug "cocktails" work better than earlier treatments for the disease, even in patients with advanced cases, scientists said.

Preliminary results of the study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) were so encouraging that the trial was halted early so that all patients could have the option of moving onto the more aggressive new therapies incorporating drugs called protease inhibitors.

Not all patients with ad-

vanced AIDS fare well even on the new therapies but the study found better survival rates and slower disease progression in the group getting combination therapy. There were 18 deaths in the two-drug arm of the study vs. only eight deaths in the protease cocktail group.

Several smaller studies in the 18 months or so have shown that the new combination therapies, usually involving three drugs, have suppressed the HIV virus in newly infected patients, and there has been encouraging data about more advanced patients. But because of its size and design, this is considered a landmark study.

"The results ... confirm the importance of using protease inhibitors in treatment strategies for patients with advanced HIV disease," said Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at NIH.

"Significantly, the current study provides additional evidence that combination approaches using protease inhibitors can reduce the risk of death," Dr. Fauci said.

Patients with advanced AIDS were either given two older anti-viral drugs, or they were given two of the older drugs along with one of the new protease inhibitors. Three protease inhi-

bitors are on the market but this study used Crixivan made by Merck.

"Information from this study will help people with HIV/AIDS and their physicians around the world in making well-informed treatment decisions," said Dr. Jeffrey Chodakewitz, senior director of clinical research at Merck Research Laboratories USA.

Merck said about 130,000 people around the world are taking Crixivan.

AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is caused by the HIV virus and attacks the body's immune system. There is no known cure for the disease.

Molecule affects life span of HIV patients — study

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — People with HIV — the virus that causes AIDS — who have ample levels of a molecule normally found throughout the body, are likely to live longer than patients with low levels, researchers said.

The more of these molecules patients carry in their CD4 T cells — the primary cells targeted by the HIV virus — the longer the patients are likely to survive, said Leonard and Leonard Herzberg, genetics professors and a husband-and-wife research team at Stanford University School of Medicine.

The molecule, called glutathione, plays a role in many of the body's normal activities, ranging from cell division to mopping up oxidants and other toxic molecules.

"What we show for the first time in this work is that people with HIV who have lower glutathione levels have a much lower probability of surviving over the course of three years than do people with normal glutathione levels," said Dr. Leonard Herzberg, who presented the finding at the recent annual meeting of the American Association of Immunologists in San Francisco.

The researchers suggested that one potential way to maintain adequate levels of glutathione in HIV patients was to give them N-Acetylcysteine (NAC), a drug normally used to treat overdoses of the common painkiller acetaminophen (drugs such as Tylenol).

Their study showed that daily NAC tablets were able to boost the glutathione in patients' blood to a healthy level.

Dr. Leonard Herzberg said it was "logical to suggest that NAC will help HIV patients live longer. But we don't know this for sure." He said there should be a clinical trial to see whether NAC increased HIV patients' long-term survival.

Dr. Leonard Herzberg said the researchers were not recommending that people with HIV take NAC. "You cannot recommend something unless there is good, solid, double-blind controlled evidence," she told a news conference.

But she said NAC was non-toxic and did not harm people. "So we don't feel uncomfortable in saying: Here's a dietary supplement that you could take that would possibly improve things and is not likely to hurt you."

The research also raised the possibility that drugs such as acetaminophen, sold under the brand name Tylenol and others, are hazardous to people with HIV or with other conditions that suppress immune function, she said.

Dr. Leonard Herzberg and John James, publisher of the newsletter AIDS Treatment News, are asking the Food and Drug Administration to consider requiring drug companies to label glutathione-depleting drugs such as acetaminophen with a warning stating the potential hazard to people with HIV.

A total of 204 patients took part in the study. When the patients joined the study, all of them were HIV positive but had no outward signs of illness. Over the next three years, the re-

searchers found that patients who maintained normal glutathione levels — even if their CD4 counts were low — tended to outlive those with low glutathione levels.

The study included 99 patients with CD4 counts below 200 cells per microliter of blood — the threshold clinicians view as an imminent threat to survival. Most patients who had such low levels of CD4 cells and also had low levels of glutathione died within three years.

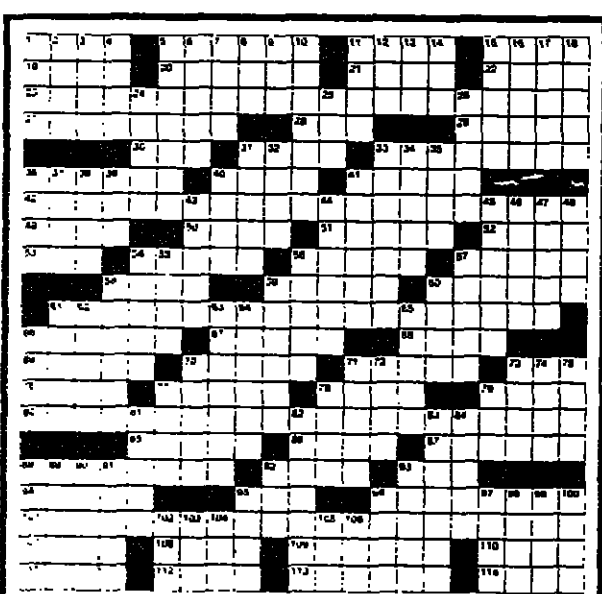
"In contrast, of the 28 people who started the study with low CD4 counts but maintained normal glutathione levels, 23 survived. In other words, about 80 per cent of these people survived, even though their CD4 cell counts indicated their survival was unlikely," Dr. Leonard Herzberg said.

A full report on the findings of the Herzbergs, who worked with several other researchers, was due to appear in the March 4 issue of the journal Proceedings Of The National Academy Of Sciences.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Q. AND A.
By Harold B. Counts

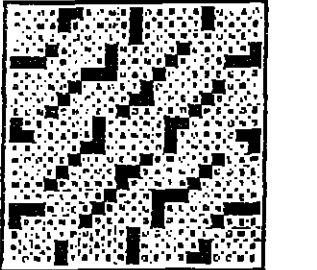
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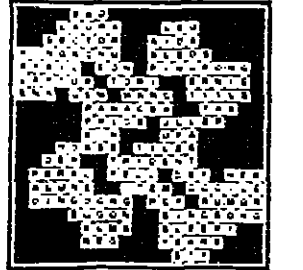
Diagramless, 21x21
By Frances Burton

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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Young football fan buys autograph album hoping to get some signatures from his heroes.
2. Who was the guy who let our pet owl get out in the dark park, and why has he done it?
3. Subtlety and cynicism are usually unappreciated and, gone comically, badly misapprehended.
4. Salsa and chips have replaced onion dips for favorite cocktail snack.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. BQGESEHLEC RMCECED AZK QZHLQ TZD GLRTYC TYRLJVI EIMYI GEJP PEI ZRRZVCY LI DZMB ZA RLESCED HLCCEVI QZZKI ZC. — By Karl Ireland
2. TAAL VEUNAL TUSHY LAVO UR TILH IRZ KUGOV UN NA KULD UR I CEZ GIVO — I DARK-ROSHOZ COOL CANNDO. — By R.C. Doyle
3. LMPA NJE DYNOWE DREAMIN ANNAVY, KYLWY WILMEMBIK J NREAWY HI ANE PHCI JOYW. — By Barbara J. Rugg
4. FAWDY IUEWOTUBBRW OBLSEK VAL EE REXTNU ELE UGH FADD'ISTS. — By Ed Haddock

New heart failure drug may offer hope — experts

By Maggie Fox
Reuter

LONDON — A new drug for treating heart failure, which won grudging approval from a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) panel this week, could offer hope for patients with the deadly condition, doctors and analysts said Friday.

Smithline Beecham's Carvedilol, marketed as Coreg, takes a novel approach to heart failure and could be useful, the panel decided. The FDA usually follows the panel's advice.

Trials have shown the drug, which combines the action of beta-blockers, slowing the heart rate and lower blood pressure, with a secondary effect of dilating blood vessels, can help heart failure patients live longer.

Heart failure is one of the most hopeless conditions. Half of all men diagnosed with it die within 20 months and half of all women in about two years.

Symptoms include extreme breathlessness, severe water retention that causes swelling, weight loss and general frailty. "Heart failure is a malignant condition that is worse than cancer," said Graham Jackson, a leading cardiologist at Guy's Hospital in London.

But some doctors and pharmaceutical analysts think Coreg can help change this. "Current treatment is pretty poor," said Dr. Andrew Baum, a pharmaceuticals analyst at Salomon Brothers.

This usually consists of ace inhibitors, which are prescribed to lower blood pressure, and beta-blockers. But Coreg acts differently by helping offset the damage done by ischemia, caused when a clot or fat blocking the arteries reduces the amount of oxygen getting to the heart muscle.

It also helps stop high blood pressure from thickening blood vessels, a condition that further cuts blood flow.

Dr. Milton Packer of Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Centre, one of the world's top heart researchers, found a 65 per cent reduction in death from heart failure with Coreg and a 27 per cent reduction in the need to go to hospital.

But later studies were not so decisive. So the FDA has so far declined to approve Coreg for treating heart failure.

The recent decision by the FDA advisory panel sent Smithline shares up in the United States and briefly in London but they settled back down later Friday, hovering around 919 pence in London and \$56 in New York.

Baum believes Coreg could prove a real "blockbuster," routinely prescribed for heart failure along with ace inhibitors and diuretics. "We predict sales of £350 million (\$570 million) worldwide for Coreg in 2000," he said.

Reaction from doctors was more cautious. Dr. Jackson already uses Coreg for heart failure and is pleased with the results but says he is being very careful. "You can't just use the drug willy nilly in the community. The patients have to be very carefully selected and the drug started at a very low dose in hospital," he said.

But he added: "Carvedilol is a good advance and a logical one. It attacks the hormonal problem that makes heart failure worse."

Combined with ace inhibitors, it "adds up nicely," he said. Dr. Brian Kirby, a coronary heart disease specialist at the University of Exeter, is less impressed with Coreg.

"I think we've got a way to go yet," he said. Dr. Jackson said prevention was still the aim — despite a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association last week that said most of the recent decline in deaths from coronary heart disease had occurred because of improved management of patients rather than lifestyle changes.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. A gasket is a piece of tow packed round a joint to make it water tight. A chamfer is a flat surface made by cutting away the angle formed where two surface join. A crank is a mechanical device for converting reciprocating motion into circle, or vice versa; the crank-arm projects at right angles to the shaft, and the crank-pin is at right angles to the arm. A gantry is a frame supported at both ends and spanning a distance; it is specially used to support a travelling crane. A fish-plate is one of a pair of steel plates by which two rails are bolted together.
2. (a) Only if it can be shown that the owner was aware that the dog had a disposition to bite people.
(b) The same.
- (c) Yes, unless they are not living together, or he warns tradesmen not to supply her, or he gives her a sufficient allowance to pay the bills.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Yes.
3. All except rhubarb leaves, though bracken shoots are not recommended.
4. Razor, scissors, needle, glass, soap, concrete, linen.
5. To Lilliput, the country of the dwarfs; Brobdingnag, the country of the giants; Laputa, the flying island, Lagado with its Academy of Projectors, and the land of the Struldbrigs or immortals; and to the country of the Houyhnhnms or reasoning horses, and the Yahoos or beasts in the shape of men.

PUZZLES

- (A) 19. (To find the third number in each row, subtract the second from the first.)
- (B) Police. (In all the other words, the first and the second letters are consecutive letters in the alphabet; in "police" this order is reversed.)
- (C) Ram and Dram. (A ram is a male sheep, and a dram is a small draught of spirit.)
- (D) Al, the three-toed sloth. Sloth is one of the seven deadly sins. Much is within a (lot) h.

U.S. proposes Caucasian gas route to Turkey to avoid Iranian option

ANKARA (AFP) — The United States has called on energy-starved Turkey to drop a deal to buy natural gas from Iran and instead take gas from Central Asia via an alternative route, an energy source said Wednesday.

"U.S. authorities have told Turkish officials that Washington will support a project to bring Turkmenistan's natural gas to Turkey via a pipeline passing through Transcaucasia," an expert on international energy matters told AFP.

"The objective is to prevent Turkey, a leading U.S. ally, from doing energy business with Tehran, as the U.S. considers Iran a terrorist state," the expert said.

He said Israel, Iran's main enemy in the Middle East, was also ready to support the project politically and financially.

"U.S. Energy Department officials made the proposal to Turkish state minister Abdullah Gul when he visited Washington last month, but Gul did not give a clear answer," the expert added.

During a visit by Turkey's pro-Islamic Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan to Tehran last August, the two countries signed a multi-billion dollar agreement for

Iranian natural gas for Turkey.

The United States last year declared an embargo on foreign companies doing oil or gas business with Iran with more than \$40 million of investment in the Islamic republic.

It has threatened the Turkish state pipeline company Botas with an embargo in the event it goes ahead with the Iranian deal.

Turkish officials have responded by saying that Turkey is on the brink of an energy crisis and desperately needs the Iranian gas for its eastern region.

The new U.S. plan calls for the construction of a pipeline between Turkmenistan in Central Asia and Turkey, which would pass beneath the Caspian Sea and then through Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The former Soviet republic of Turkmenistan has the fourth largest natural gas resources in the world.

The European Union, which is considering delivery of Turkmen gas to Europe via a pipeline in the long run, has decided to finance a feasibility study for the multi-billion dollar project, the source said.

Israeli officials will express support for the

Turkmen gas deal for Turkey when Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Boris Shihmuradov visits the Jewish state later this month, the source added.

Despite Mr. Erbakan's efforts to boost political and economic cooperation with Iran, ties between Ankara and Tehran deteriorated last month as the two countries moved to expel each other's diplomats.

Turkish officials asked Iran to recall its ambassador in Ankara after he publicly expressed support for Islamists trying to introduce Sharia in Turkey. Ankara also declared another Iranian diplomat persona non grata after he insulted the Turkish military.

Iran retaliated by expelling Turkey's ambassador in Tehran and another Turkish diplomat.

Turkey last month signed an agreement with Russia to increase the yearly natural gas it is buying from Moscow from six billion cubic metres to eight billion cubic metres.

To meet its energy requirements, Turkey plans to buy 55 billion cubic metres of natural gas a year by 2025.

Islamic theologian opposes cloning

CAIRO (R) — An Islamic theologian called for an end to research on cloning, saying it did not meet an Islamic requirement that the benefits outweigh the damage.

"I say this research must be stopped because it will lead to things which are forbidden by Islamic law, ideologically and ethically, rather than benefiting mankind," said Abdul Muti Bayyouni, a professor of doctrine at Al Azhar University.

"Anything which does more harm than good is haram (forbidden) and so far the harm done by genetic engineering and cloning has proved to be greater than the benefit," he added. He was quoted in the government paper Al Gomhouria on Wednesday.

The office of the grand sheikh of Al Azhar and of the mufti of Egypt have not yet responded to requests for a ruling on cloning, which hit the headlines last month when scientists in Scotland said they had

succeeded in cloning a sheep.

The Azhar is one of the most prestigious seats of Islamic learning in the Sunni Muslim world. The mufti is the country's chief exponent of religious law, issuing fatwas (legal rulings) on any subject referred to him.

Al Jomhouria made no distinction between cloning animals and cloning humans but the professor's specific concerns mainly addressed the case of identical humans.

He said cloning humans would raise legal questions over which of the two genetically identical humans was responsible for criminal acts, for example.

"What if this reckless science goes further and thinks of cloning criminals, or mummified pharaohs or even cloning prophets, although of course prophethood ended with the Prophet Mohammad?" he said.

Palestinians vow to resist closure

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Erekat angrily rejected the move, which came hard on the heels of a decision by Mr. Netanyahu last week to build a 6,500-home Jewish settlement on Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab East Jerusalem, an action which has drawn widespread Palestinian and international condemnation.

"Netanyahu's war on peace is continuing," Mr. Erekat told AFP. "This is the execution of a calculated plan to torpedo the peace process."

He noted that Mr. Netanyahu's move came only 12 days from the scheduled start of the so-called final status negotiations aimed at finding a permanent peace settlement between Israelis and Palestinians.

The four offices targeted by Wednesday's orders were a geography institute which tracks Jewish settlement activity in the territories, a welfare organisation helping persons injured in clashes with Israelis, an Islamic office which acts against Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem and another that helps small businesses.

In August, Mr. Netanyahu ordered the closure of three alleged PNA offices in Arab East

Jerusalem, two of which were shut on orders from Mr. Arafat but the geography institute simply moved its operations into the Orient House, the unofficial PLO headquarters in the city.

"We aren't asking the Palestinian authority if it is ready to close these offices, we will do it ourselves," Mr. Netanyahu said on Tuesday.

Mr. Netanyahu, meanwhile, sought to build a majority in his right-wing coalition cabinet for a new series of Israeli troop pullbacks on the West Bank which he is required to begin by Friday under signed peace agreements with the Palestinians.

Hardline members of the coalition had demanded the closure of Palestinian offices in Arab East Jerusalem as one of their conditions for approving the further withdrawals, although Netanyahu aides denied any link between the two issues.

Mr. Hussein warned Wednesday that Mr. Netanyahu's actions in the city were weakening Mr. Arafat and strengthening anti-Israeli hardliners.

"These Israeli actions destroy the credibility of the secular leadership of the Palestinians. If the Israeli government continues, the card will fall from the hand of the sec-

ular leadership and the only ones to pick it up will be the fundamentalists," he said.

Mr. Hussein also denied the offices targeted here were illegal.

"If the Israelis want to shut down every institution in Jerusalem that is dealing with the Palestinian National Authority, let them start with the Israeli Electric Company," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu also instructed Police Minister Avigdor Kahalani to "remove by the end of the week Palestinian security men operating in Jerusalem," the Israeli leader's spokesman said.

"The prime minister gave instructions to continue to examine if there are additional offices acting on behalf of the Palestinian Authority in Jerusalem," it said.

Mr. Netanyahu, speaking on Israeli army radio, said bulldozers would begin to move in two weeks on the pine-covered Jabal Abu Ghneim at the centre of an international controversy.

"From the standpoint of the survey work it's only a few days," the Israeli prime minister said. "We are determined to go on building in Jerusalem."

Mubarak asks Netanyahu to respect Israel's agreements

(Continued from page 12)

talks with the right-wing Israeli leader. "The air is polluted today... Netanyahu is in Cairo," the opposition weekly Al Dustour said in a red banner front-page headline.

Al-Ahali, the organ of the Marxist Tagamo Party, told Mr. Netanyahu "you are not welcome in our country" and called for "a halt in

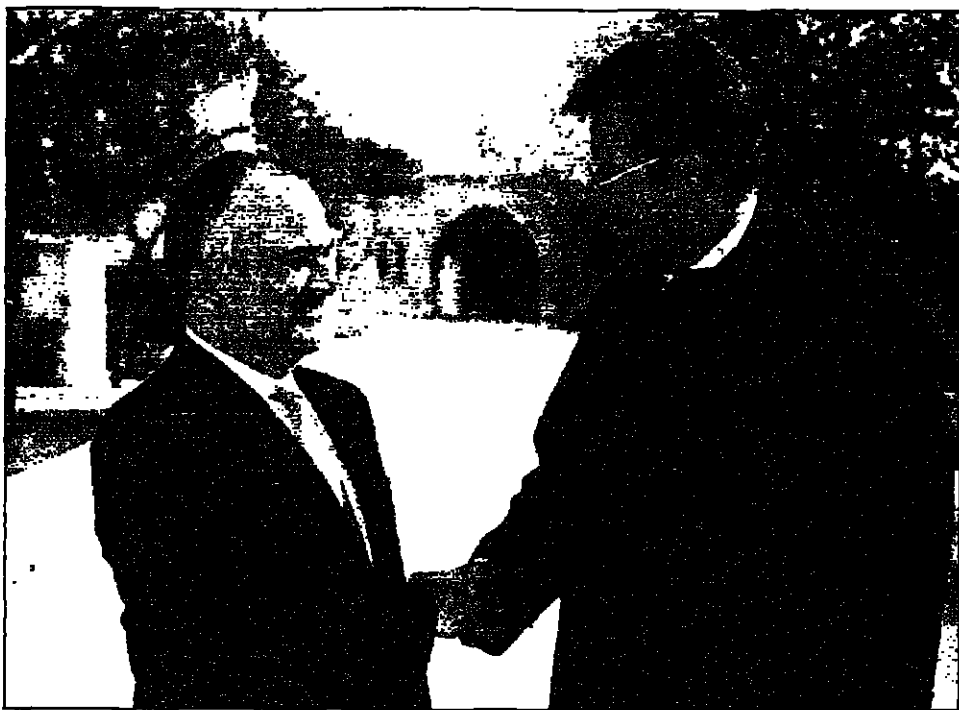
peace negotiations which should not start again unless settlements in Jabal Abu Ghneim stop."

Al Wafd newspaper carried a front-page cartoon showing a man spraying pesticides at the airport and telling another: "Your friend is coming" and called on Mr. Mubarak "to adopt a firm position" in his talks with Mr. Netanyahu.

A member of the Israeli

delegation accompanying Mr. Netanyahu to Egypt meanwhile spoke of a "gentleman's agreement" over Azzam.

"This case is before the court. We have no authority to exclude it from the court until it comes to its end," Mr. Mubarak said in reference to Azzam, an Israeli druze who has been detained in a Cairo jail for four months.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday receives German foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel (photo by Yousef Allan)

Kinkel reaffirms German, EU support

(Continued from page 1)

— \$48 million.

The condition attached to the gesture, said Mr. Dingens, was that half of the amount should be used in environment-related projects in Jordan in Jordanian currency.

He also indicated that Germany was ready to reschedule 40 million marks of Jordan's dues when the Kingdom holds talks with the Paris Club of creditor governments. Part of the debts has been rescheduled in previous accords signed by Jordan and the Paris Club.

Mr. Kinkel, who met with a group of Jordanian graduates of German universities, also underlined the importance of cultural and educational links between Germany and Jordan and said his country would continue to extend scholarships to Jordanian students.

Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Kinkel earlier reviewed the general situation in the Middle East and discussed the development of the Jordan Rift Valley.

They discussed trade between the Middle East and the European Union (EU) as well as European economic assistance to the region and issues related to facilitating the flow of goods, capital and labourers within the Mediterranean region and Europe.

Mr. Kinkel said that Germany would continue to provide assistance for Jordan development projects, particularly water schemes.

The ministers of higher education, water and irrigation, planning and finance were present at the meeting. Subsequent to the gathering, Prince Hassan met with the German delegation accompanying Mr. Kinkel.

The Crown Prince briefed the guests on foreign investments in Jordan.

Mr. Kinkel earlier met with Prime Minister Kabariti and reviewed German-financed development projects in the country as well as economic and cultural ties between Jordan and Germany.

The two discussed the Middle East peace process, current obstacles impeding its progress and prospects of Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese peace negotiations.

Mr. Kabariti reiterated that the Israeli-Palestinian accords must be implemented for the establishment of a durable and comprehensive peace.

He expressed optimism that the German foreign minister's visit to Jordan would contribute towards bolstering bilateral ties and that the German business delegation would familiarise itself with the Jordanian investment climate.

The two sides discussed ongoing negotiations on a Jordan-EU association agreement. The prime minister emphasised Jordan's determination to implement the Barcelona Declaration on cooperation between Europe and the Mediterranean countries.

In his press conference, Mr. Kinkel criticised the new Israeli demand for the closure of four Palestinian offices in Jerusalem. "During this difficult time, it would have been better to refrain from making any decision likely to cause trouble," said Mr. Kinkel, who met with the EU's special envoy to the Middle East, Miguel Angel Moratinos, Wednesday morning in Amman. The EU envoy also left Amman Wednesday.

Mr. Kinkel told the press conference that the stalled Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations would be the key theme during an upcoming visit to Bonn by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa.

"The aim of Germany, and of the EU, is to relaunch talks on the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks," Mr. Kinkel said.

Later on the day, Mr. Kinkel arrived in the autonomous Palestinian town of Jericho and officiated over the opening of a new produce market funded by the German government.

Mr. Kinkel is to visit four Palestinian cities during his three-day trip to Israel and the Palestinian autonomous areas.

Germany, a major donor to the Palestinian economy, spent 1.1 million marks (\$650,000) on the fruit and vegetable market, which created 90 new jobs and will house 18 stalls and new businesses.

King meets Qatari crown prince

(Continued from page 1)

Prime Ministry Affairs Mohammad Ben Khaled Al Thani and an accompanying delegation.

King Hussein conferred upon Sheikh Jassem with the Al Nahda Medal and hosted a banquet in the honour of the Qatari crown

prince and the accompanying delegation.

The Qatari crown prince also held a meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on issues of common concern to Jordan and Qatar.

The Qatari crown prince was accorded an official welcome ceremony upon

arrival with Prince Hassan leading Jordanian officials to welcome the guest.

Sheikh Jassem lauded Jordanian-Qatari relations, which, he said, were exemplary.

He expressed hope that his talks with King Hussein and Jordanian officials will further bolster bilateral ties.

Arafat visits U.N.

(Continued from page 1)

It also calls on Israel to refrain from any action or measure which alters the facts on the ground, preempting the final status negotiations, and has negative implications for the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Yasser Arafat and American Jewish community leaders meanwhile agreed that "direct dialogue" was preferable to outside pressures in solving problems between Israel and the Palestinians.

In the hour-long meeting, Mr. Arafat also gave assurances that Palestinian tenets

no longer call for the destruction of the Jewish state.

He told us that the 29 offending paragraphs in the (Palestinian) covenant have been annulled as inconsistent with the peace process," said Howard Squadron, a spokesman for the 11-member Jewish delegation.

He said that and the need for direct communications were the dominant topics in the closed-door meeting at a hotel near the United Nations.

"We agree that there should not be a resort to external pressures, but communications should be conducted directly between

the parties. (Arafat) was totally in agreement on that idea, so we are very much consistent on that idea," said Mr. Squadron, a former chairman of the conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations. The group represents about 50 Jewish groups.

The group also discussed the controversial settlement that Israel plans to build in Arab East Jerusalem.

Mr. Squadron quoted Mr. Arafat as saying the project might not have become an issue if Mr. Netanyahu had consulted him beforehand.

Overall, he said, the two sides had a "very cordial meeting that explored lots of issues." It was at least the third meeting for Mr. Arafat and some of the participants.

Netanyahu on Druze affairs, and Asaad Arayni paid a visit to Azzam in prison.

"He is in good health and seems to be well treated. I have faith in the Egyptian justice system," said Asaad.

He said that Jordan was

looking forward to participating in an international trade fair to be held in Prague next year and was concerned with launching cooperation between Jordan and the Czech Republic in the fields of science and technology.

Earlier members of the Czech delegation said that they plan to launch joint ventures with Jordanian partners and have discussed Czech imports of Jordanian product.

from our land." Seven years after the U.S.-led military coalition defeated Iraq in the 1991 Gulf war and freed Kuwait from a seven-month Iraqi occupation, he is strongly opposed to even considering offers of direct contacts with Baghdad.

Abed Rabbo: Journalists' arrest in U.S. is political

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The Palestinian "information minister" condemned Wednesday the arrest at the White House of a Palestinian journalist working with an international news agency as politically motivated.

Yasser Abed Rabbo said the arrest of Wafa Amer "could only be political, especially because it came at the same time as Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's first official visit" to Washington on Monday.

"It seems this visit angered some Israeli and American circles and they could not let it go by without leaving their marks on it" by arresting Ms. Amer, he told journalists in the West Bank self-rule city of Ramallah.

Ms. Amer, who works for the Reuters news agency and earlier for the Jordan Times, was held by the U.S. Secret Service upon entering the White House Monday to cover talks between Mr. Arafat and U.S. President Bill

Clinton, the first solo official talks by the Palestinian leader with an American leader.

A New York-based spokesman for the news agency said Ms. Amer worked out of the Jerusalem bureau but came to the United States to cover Mr. Arafat's visit.

A Secret Service spokeswoman said a security check turned up an order for Ms. Amer's arrest for an alleged theft she committed when she stayed in the state of Iowa 15 years ago.

The Secret Service, which protects the U.S. president, governs security at the White House.

The U.S. consulate in Jerusalem said the order was for failure to appear in court over a bounced check. Ms. Amer, 36, has been released from custody but will have to go to Iowa to face charges.

Mr. Abed Rabbo called the charges "insignificant" and called the arrest "an attempt to ruin Amer's reputation."

Netanyahu pushes against Russian-Iranian nuclear ties

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accused Russia of endangering Israel's existence by helping Iran develop ballistic missiles.

"We view any assistance given by Russia to Iran to develop ballistic missiles as something that is inherently endangering the very future of Israel, and we believe it also endangers the future and the interests of Russia," Mr. Netanyahu said late Tuesday.

Speaking to visiting American Jewish leaders, Mr. Netanyahu said he would raise Israel's objections "in no uncertain terms" when he meets Russian leaders in Moscow March 12.

Israel has warned that Iran is trying to obtain nuclear weapons and missiles capable of delivering them. There is also concern here that Russia, which reestablished ties with Israel six years ago, is resuming an anti-Israel posture in the Middle East.

Last month, the Los Angeles Times reported that

Moscow had supplied Iran with nuclear and missile technology that could speed up the country's nuclear programme. Russian intelligence and arms export officials denied the alleged deal.

The newspaper cited unidentified U.S. officials as saying that intelligence reports indicate Russia recently transferred technology to Iran for the Russian SS-4 missile, whose range of 2,000 kilometres makes it a potential threat to Israel.

The Los Angeles Times also reported that Washington had issued a diplomatic warning to Moscow about Russian assistance to Iran's missile programme that could threaten U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia and several Gulf allies.

Israel, widely reported to have its own nuclear warheads and missiles to deliver them, has accused Iran of seeking the destruction of the Jewish state.

Israelis bugged Arafat Jericho offices, security officials say

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian security officials said Wednesday that they had discovered listening devices in Yasser Arafat's Jericho offices and accused Israeli intelligence of spying on the Palestinian president.

"The day before yesterday we found some listening devices inside the walls of the president's office in Jericho," a Palestinian intelligence official told AFP on grounds he not be named.

He said the electronic bugs had apparently been left in the building, which was formerly used by the Israeli army, before it became Mr. Arafat's official residence following the first Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord in 1993 and the formal launch of Palestinian autonomy in mid-1994.

"The Israeli security services are still working against the Palestinian

(National) Authority (PNA). They do not accept the peace between the two sides," he said.

The official declined to say exactly where the bugs were placed or provide other details, saying a formal investigation was continuing.

Mr. Arafat uses his Jericho residence only occasionally, but has met several foreign leaders in the building, including King Hussein, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

Palestinian security officials say they have found several booby-trapped listening devices attached to the PNA telephone system underneath a former Israeli army compound in Gaza City.

One Palestinian worker was killed and another injured last year when they stumbled upon one of the devices attached to a landmine.

Crown Prince leaves for London

(Continued from page 1)

House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srouf, Cabinet ministers and senior civil and military officials.

Before leaving for London, Prince Hassan met in Amman with a Czech delegation and expressed Jordan's readiness to help facilitate joint Jordanian-Czech investments in the Kingdom.

He said that Jordan was

looking forward to participating in an international trade fair to be held in Prague next year and was concerned with launching cooperation between Jordan and the Czech Republic in the fields of science and technology.

Earlier members of the Czech delegation said that they plan to launch joint ventures with Jordanian partners and have discussed Czech imports of Jordanian product.

from our land." Seven years after the U.S.-led military coalition defeated Iraq in the 1991 Gulf war and freed Kuwait from a seven-month Iraqi occupation, he is strongly opposed to even considering offers of direct contacts with Baghdad.

Kuwait media say crown prince doing well

(Continued from page 1)

and public security in 1961. He held the defence and interior portfolios until a year before the 1979 revolution in non-Arab Iran across the narrow Gulf.

"But the two sides prefer not to speak about it" publicly, Mr. Kamal said.

Asaad Al Asaad, a former member of the Israeli parliament and advisor to Mr.

Arab cash reserves sharply up after 1990

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states boosted their international cash reserves by nearly 66 per cent between 1990 and 1995, which probably increased further by the end of 1996, an official report has said.

The financial reserves of the 22-member Arab League, excluding gold, totalled around \$59.8 billion at the end of 1995 compared with \$35.9 billion at the end of 1990, the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) said.

"The level was expected to have increased further in 1996 as some member states continued to rebuild their reserves," the Abu Dhabi-based fund said.

The reserves dipped to one of their lowest levels in 1990 as some oil-rich Gulf states withdrew funds to finance mobilisation of a U.S.-dominated international coalition to liber-

ate Kuwait from Iraqi invasion forces.

Further withdrawals depressed Saudi Arabia's reserves from \$11.6 billion in 1990 to a record low of \$5.9 billion in 1992.

Kuwait's reserves dived from \$3.1 billion in 1989 to \$1.9 billion in 1990, but they started to grow again when the Gulf state injected about \$100 billion from investments it cashed in.

The Saudi reserves also steadily grew in the following years to reach \$8.6 billion at the end of 1995, according to the AMF, the Arab League's main financial institution.

Bankers, quoting International Monetary Fund figures, put the Saudi reserves at around \$11 billion at the end of 1996 because of last year's surge in oil prices.

But the figure remains far lower than Riyadh's

reserves of more than \$25 billion in early 1980s, when oil prices were above \$30 and Saudi Arabia produced nearly four million barrels per day (bpd) of oil above its current OPEC-assigned quota of eight million bpd.

The reserves of the United Arab Emirates, another major Gulf oil producer, grew from \$4.5 billion in 1990 to \$7.4 billion in 1995 and were expected to have reached \$7.6 billion at the end of 1996.

The AMF report showed Egypt's reserves jumped from only \$2.6 billion in 1990 to \$16.1 billion in 1995 to become the member with the largest financial reserves. It gave no reason for the surge but Egypt is involved in one of the region's biggest economic reform programmes.

Japan's foreign reserves reach \$218.26 b

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$1.123 billion in February to \$218.26 billion, the finance ministry has said.

A ministry official said Japan's foreign exchange reserves rose to a record high at the end of February, with the reserves the largest of any single country for 40 straight months.

The second largest foreign exchange reserves are held by China at \$105.5 billion, followed by Taiwan with \$88.4 billion, the official said.

Foreign reserves consist of convertible foreign currencies, gold and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Special Drawing Rights. The official refused to comment when asked if the reason for the increase in foreign reserves was central bank intervention in the foreign exchange market. Japan's foreign reserves have expanded for the past three years, reflecting dollar buying by the Bank of Japan to prevent excessive appreciation of the Japanese currency.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	SGD	HKD
US Dollar	-	1.7130	0.6216	1.4822	121.54	1.3678	1705.07	1.9270	6.7771
DE Mark	0.5838	-	0.3536	0.5324	79.36	0.7708	1036.24	1.1929	4.1914
GB Sterling	1.6089	2.7662	-	2.3833	195.36	2.2006	2739.87	3.0989	9.2886
Swiss Franc	0.6742	1.1252	0.4512	-	133.33	0.7500	936.26	1.0663	3.7564
JP Yen	0.0082	1.4099	0.0110	1.2186	-	1.1249	14.01	198.52	4.7521
Can Dollar	0.7307	1.2539	0.2865	0.6667	0.7276	-	952.51	1.0700	3.2222
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0053	0.3648	0.0870	1403.11	0.8030	-	11.51	3.3916
NL Guilder	0.3760	0.6541	0.2224	0.2743	333.33	0.3603	360.33	-	1.3760
FR Franc	0.1731	0.2964	0.1078	0.1254	166.67	0.1936	193.63	33.35	33.3500

Energy		
Oils	Last	Previous
Brent	20.10	20.05
WTI	20.00	20.00
Bony	20.10	20.05
Heating Oil	17.77	17.23
UL Gas	196.00	194.00

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz)	353.5	354.4
Silver (oz)	5.21	5.25
Platinum (oz)	380.5	381.5

Commodity		
Commodity	Last	Deliveries
Coffee (c/lb)	205.42	Spot
Cocoa (c/lb)	1385	Spot
Sugar (c/lb)	310.5	Spot
Wheat (c/lb)	1.92	Spot
Soy (c/lb)	23.32	Spot
Yen (c/lb)	1.92	Spot
Barley (c/lb)	0	Spot
Rice (c/lb)	500	Spot

Mid-East Currencies				
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF
SA Riyal	0.2967	0.4571	0.16581	0.39546
IR Rial	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
KW Dinar	3.2940	5.64653	2.04976	4.8852
CY Pound	1.9503	3.34	1.2116	2.8891

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)						
Period	1	3	6	9	12	Year
Cncy	Month	Months	Months	Months	Months	Year
USD	5.32	5.44	5.60	5.82	5.75	
DEM	5.11	5.20	5.35	5.47	5.47	

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
DE Mark	0.4123	0.4144
FR Franc	0.1223	0.1229
NL Guilder	0.3686	0.3684
JP Yen	111.51	111.51

Source: Central Bank of Jordan

Egyptian president tells young people to go into business

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, reversing policies of former Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, has urged the country's youths to go into business and not into the civil service, the government press reported Wednesday.

"I want young people who work and produce not ones who seek government positions," President Mubarak said Tuesday as he opened a youth fair in Cairo.

As an incentive, he decided to extend to 10 years instead of five the grace period for loans made by the Social Development Fund to young entrepreneurs and to reduce interest rates on these loans from nine to seven per cent, the official press said.

Under Abdul Nasser, the government had to provide jobs for all university graduates — a move which over the years has hurt the economy and bloated the civil service.

Egypt launched in 1992 an ambitious privatisation

programme in keeping with recommendations made by the International Monetary Fund, and the press is replete each day with reports of new business ventures aimed at creating thousands of jobs.

According to official figures published in 1995, public employment amounted to 33.1 per cent of all jobs in Egypt in 1986-1988, but shrank to 32.6 per cent in 1990-1991 and declined further to 30.9 per cent in 1992-1993.

These longer-term projects would need at least \$16.5 billion in hard currency investment just in construction costs. "Foreign participation is definitely required. These finances cannot come from local sources alone," Mr. Sani said at a gas conference.

enclave. Reza Rostami Sani, director of international affairs at the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), told reporters.

Iran does not currently export gas in commercial quantities despite having the world's largest natural gas reserves after Russia.

NIGC's plans involve the export of 41.5 billion cubic metres a year in 2005 through costly gas pipeline

projects to Pakistan and Europe and liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports to the Far East.

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Iran plans to become major gas exporter

KISH ISLAND, Iran (R) — Iran aims to export an annual 4.5 billion cubic metres of gas at the end of the decade and has plans to increase this tenfold by the year 2005, a senior Iranian gas official has said.

In the year 2000, Iran would be exporting three billion cubic metres to Turkey, one billion to Armenia and 0.5 billion to Azerbaijan's Nakhichevan

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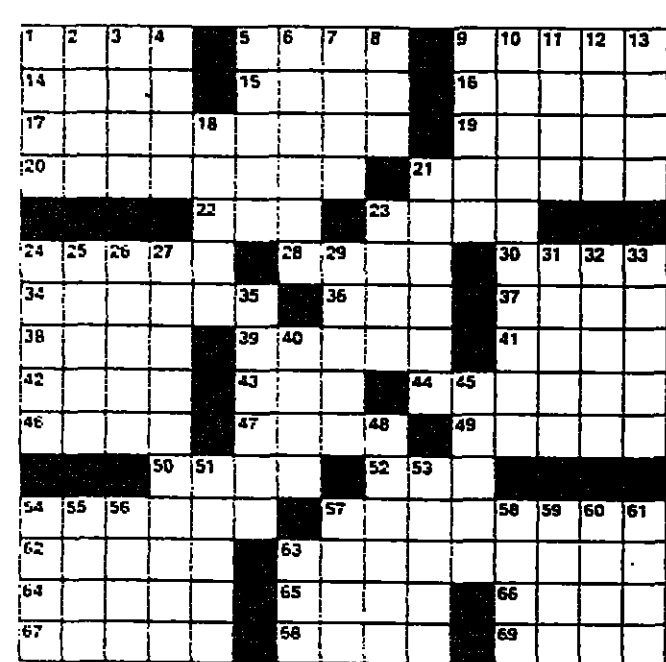
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THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Switch positions
- 5 Use a knapsack
- 9 Sweeper
- 14 Have gumption
- 15 Europe's neighbor
- 16 Zodiac sign
- 17 Stunning sight
- 19 Heroic sagas
- 20 Pioneers, perhaps
- 21 Starchy staples
- 22 Before
- 23 Make money
- 24 Certain soup
- 28 Play area
- 30 Roman poet
- 34 Itchy
- 36 Naughty
- 37 Do followers
- 38 Battle memento
- 39 Cream of the crop
- 41 Vehicle on tracks
- 42 Veer off
- 43 Lead a hand
- 44 Deepen
- 46 Attempt
- 47 Soufflage
- 49 Heavenly ram
- 50 Coffee holders
- 52 Curtain accessory
- 54 Bowling scores
- 57 Yellow or orange flower
- 62 Fashion shape
- 63 Lull
- 64 Methods
- 65 Nautical direction
- 66 Diva's solo
- 67 Blank look
- 68 Munich mister
- 69 Try out



by Diane C. Baldwin

MAJOR	CLAMPS
BENARES	RUMORED
OREGAINO	ETAMINE
ARM	LOURDES
RIODE	PIE
DENY	WEBER
RENTED	MARTYR
AKA	BAH
RESORT	OATERS
CERT	SHALT
OBIEYS	IDI
NOM	HANOVER
GUIDING	ITEMIZE
ANTARES	ACICEDIED
DEFEW	HAWIED

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- #### DOWN
- 1 Pindaric poetry
 - 2 Dunaway or Emerson
 - 3 Have qualms
 - 4 30-day mo.
 - 5 Dwindle down
 - 6 Eagle's cousin
 - 7 Bonds

- 8 Full attention
- 9 Dim with tears
- 10 Wild thing
- 11 Sad news, in brief
- 12 Killer whale
- 13 Catholic rite
- 16 Bread spreads
- 21 Like some shoulders
- 23 QED word
- 24 Wind bursts
- 25 In full
- 26 Stiller's partner
- 27 Spectacular success
- 29 Go along with
- 31 "Othello" composer
- 32 Reflection
- 33 Small coins
- 35 Has a hankering
- 40 Golf ball positions
- 45 Spokes
- 48 Document author
- 51 Singing Della

- 53 Request to the waiter
- 54 Adams and Houston
- 55 Garden site
- 56 Opera by 31D
- 57 Slipper
- 58 Tiny fly
- 59 Grimm beast
- 60 Aloha gifts
- 61 Nuts!
- 63 So there!

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1997

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Listen carefully to suggestions made today by friends. Make note of your ambitions, and also of routines which need improvement. Later this evening will be good for you to seek out the advice of knowledgeable people.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If someone nearby has good financial experience today, as for and follow this person's advice. Find more modern means of advancing in business, so that you can gain the respect and admiration of a bigwig.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Enjoy a gathering of close friends tonight, and make plans for get-togethers in the days ahead. These can be very interesting and profitable to you and fellow associates, so make every effort to complete some new project.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be with the one you love all day today, and you will both find much happiness. Avoid associating with strangers you know nothing about or you discover that you are in a difficult situation which won't be pleasant.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a fine day today for being gregarious and enjoying the company of your best friends. The best method to gain your wishes is to state them clearly in such a manner that knowledgeable people can be of assistance.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get out socially today, perhaps to a civic function, and meet with persons who may be able to assist you materially in the days ahead. Later this evening will be a good time to go out on the town with close friends.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) If you've been thinking about a short trip with a close friend, this is a good day today to plan it. A new situation will arise later this evening which will benefit you greatly, so keep an eye on the situation.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is an ideal day today to get your responsibilities organized so you can handle them more easily. Invite some good friends in for dinner and make it an evening which they will not long forget about in the days ahead.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be alert to new opportunities in the business world which will bring you success in the days ahead. This is also a good time to make new arrangements or to revise any old ones which have been in consideration.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A quiet discussion with a fellow associate can reveal much information which you were not aware of. Although it's good to relax, don't neglect your duties so that you can gain the recognition of a bigwig.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are highly creative today, and you can use this ability to make your ideas work more successfully. Enjoy the company of your mate later this evening and thereby you can have a romantic time together.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a fine day today to improve your relationship with your family. This would also be a good time to entertain guests or to have a picnic, so make plans to get together and have a wonderful time.

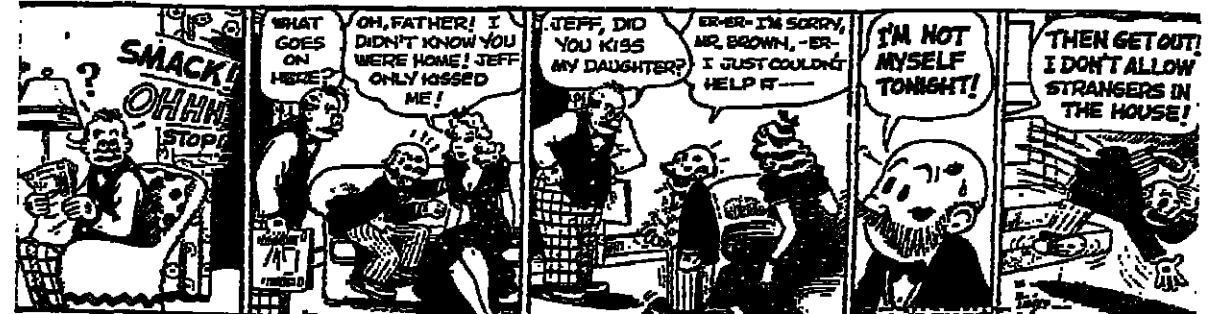
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look carefully at your financial status today and you'll see there's a method you can easily improve it. Put your home in order for socialising later this evening and you will gain the admiration of all your guests and close friends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Do whatever will improve your health and appearance this morning. Be sure you get any important appointments set up early today, thereby you can plan what method of operation, which you plan to use.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Talk over with your mate today how to be more successful in the days ahead. Go out on the town later this evening and have a wonderful time together at some romantic location which you have been previously. **MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Your close friends can help you today make your social life more interesting and profitable. Start working on your goals at this time and thereby you can gain the recognition and respect of those in authority.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Budget your time carefully today so that you'll have time for personal and recreational matters. Get together with your best friends later this evening and plan just where you would like to go for some fun activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You'll have an excellent opportunity to make some highly beneficial business contacts today, so follow through with these. Use both your intellect and charm to impress her or she with method of operation for success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get busy at fulfilling any promises you have made today, especially those made to your mate, otherwise there could be quite a difficult situation present. Much care in motion is necessary at this time to avoid any difficulties.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get in touch with your allies before noon today, and finalise any plans which you have on the drawing board. Have a romantic evening with your mate at some special location which is important and memorable.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can accomplish much this morning by simply applying yourself seriously. Try to cooperate more with your fellow associates and thereby everyone will be successful as a result of the joint effort.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Do what you can to help your loved ones achieve their goals today, however, reserve some time for yourself, otherwise you could be fried from the tension in your life. Later this evening meet with close friends.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Do what is necessary to improve the conditions at home, however, go out for a good time with your mate or close friends. Be supportive of loyal fellow associates who have been quite helpful.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Attend to any important messages this morning. Celebrate any special occasion with your mate, especially if this is the day which you both exchange wedding vows and have some special romantic plans in mind.

Birthstone of March: Aquamarine — Jasper.

Business & Finance

Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, March 6-7, 1997 9

German businessmen show readiness to support Jordan's development

By Ghaila Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A German business delegation Wednesday expressed readiness to contribute to the Kingdom's privatisation efforts and to adjust the trade balance between the two countries which, throughout the past years, has been in favour of Germany.

The delegation, headed by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, met with Jordanian businessmen and industrialists in an effort to enhance trade cooperation between the two countries as well as promote technical progress in industrial and economic activities in Jordan.

Mr. Kinkel, who was here

on a 24-hour visit, held talks with His Majesty King Hussein on various issues of mutual interest as well as bilateral relations with particular emphasis on Jordanian-German economic cooperation.

"We are prepared to put money in the country, we are also interested to be active with the private sector in Jordan," a delegation member told the meeting held at the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI).

In his inaugural speech, ACI Chairman Khaldoun Abu Hassan stressed the importance of the meeting for exploring "immediate chances of industrial and technological cooperation between Jordan and Germany."

In its endeavours to promote technical progress in its industrial and economic activities, Mr. Abu Hassan said, the Kingdom approached France, Italy, Japan and other donors to "assist it in establishing specialised and advanced training institutes in Jordan, as the only practical venue to advance the general economic progress."

Mr. Abu Hassan also called on Germany to contribute to the establishment of such institutes which include advanced centres specialised in agro-industries, garments and textiles, leather wear, graphic design, packaging, and other products.

Mr. Abu Hassan reviewed the Kingdom's economic situation and said that Jordan now hosts about 100 highly reputable companies, including multi-nationals cooperating in joint ventures based on intellectual property rights, trade marks, general franchise and transfer of know-how.

"Certainly, there is more room for such enterprises which take advantage of the geographic location of Jordan to export to other countries while fully appreciating that Jordan is developing into an active trade centre in the Middle East," said Mr. Abu Hassan.

He said Jordan's industry covers about 90 per cent of total annual Jordanian exports. These exports, he added, compensate 30 per cent of the total import invoice, thus making a large contribution towards redressing the balance of trade.

"You can be assured that the investment climate in Jordan is healthy and amenable within a liberal free enterprise system, imbued with general stability and public security," Mr. Abu Hassan told the meeting.

Hans-Christian Ueber-schaefer, head of the Economic Department of the German Federal Foreign Office, expressed Germany's inter-

est in improving the balance of payment between the two countries.

He stressed the importance of enhancing the German investment in Jordan as well as establishing joint ventures between the two sides.

According to a table prepared by ACI, the trade balance is much in favour of Germany as imports from Germany reached \$218.3 million in 1995, while Jordanian exports for the same year did not exceed \$3.9 million. The 1996 figures show an increase in both imports and exports as German imports reached \$222.6 million while Jordanian exports only reached \$41 million. This big gap needs to be narrowed by encouraging Jordanian exports to Germany, and through joint venture agreements.

Mathias Kleiner, General Manager of Daimler Benz Company in Germany, voiced the delegation's interest in starting concrete projects in Jordan with pri-

private sector participation.

Mohammad Smadi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, reviewed the progress achieved in the Jordanian economy since the financial crisis, triggered by the devaluation of the dinar in 1989.

He said that Jordan has since changed its economic environment by starting an economic reform programme as well as enacting new economic legislations. He also highlighted the incentives brought about by the new "transparent" investment law which was enacted last year.

Jordan and the European Union will soon sign a partnership agreement, Dr. Smadi said, adding that the Kingdom is also negotiating accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Jordan has finalised free trade agreements with Egypt and Bahrain, he said. This will provide "outward looking private sector based strategy," he added.

Hazem Biblawi, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), shed light on the economic development in the Western Asia region.

He said the region is likely to grow by 3.7 per cent in 1997 due to an expected change in international oil prices.

According to Dr. Biblawi, although next year's expected growth in GDP would be lower than the 4.3 per cent rate achieved in 1996, it would be higher than the 2.1 per cent growth rate registered in 1995.

The region's economic outlook, he added would be influenced by changes in

international oil prices, developments in the Middle East peace process, and implementation of economic reforms in ESCWA member countries in addition to the return of Iraqi oil to international markets and the lifting of United Nations economic sanctions on Iraq.

At the end of the meeting, which was attended by Jordanian businessmen and industrialists, the German participants gave a brief description of the companies they are representing and presented propositions regarding ways they might contribute to the enhancement of the private sector's performance in the Kingdom.

U.S. consultant advises Jordanian businesswomen to work hard, plan ahead

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Women entrepreneurs in Jordan must work hard, organise themselves and plan ahead if they want to succeed in the market place, a U.S. attorney and consultant said Monday.

In a lecture entitled "Women in Business: Insights for Succeeding in the Market Place," Attorney and consultant Lauren Nile, founder and president of the Nile Consulting Group, said national studies in the U.S. have shown that over 90 per cent of small businesses do not succeed.

Therefore, she maintained, in order to ensure that women entrepreneurs do succeed they should follow certain steps in business.

Women should prepare, study and have a clear vision of what they want, what their product or service is, and who they will be dealing with, Attorney Nile said.

"You should know your market, research the demographics, and study whether your product is viable in your city and whether the community would support it or not," she added.

Ms. Nile, who was lecturing to a group of businesswomen, noted that capital is essential to secure small businesses' success.

"Almost 95 per cent of entrepreneurs do not succeed because business owners think they have the money, but six months later they fail because they run out of money and are unable to continue," she added.

Moreover, she stressed that it is crucial for women to draw a marketing strategy and to become more involved in organisations,

voluntary work, and in attending social events. "It is very important to have your name known and to offer assistance to others. This will help you practice your skills and others will help you back when you are in need," she said.

Ms. Nile indicated that business owners "should be humble, intelligent, courteous and fair in treating their staff and showing professionalism when meeting with clients or attending social events."

Ms. Nile concluded by stressing that women must work hard, be persistent and have a sense of humour.

The Nile Consulting Group is a management consulting firm specialising in providing assistance to organisations in preventing sexual harassment and in valuing and effectively managing cultural diversity in the workplace.

The lecture was organised by the United States Information Service (USIS) in cooperation with the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC), and was held at the American Centre Auditorium.

Ms. Nile obtained her judicial doctorate from Cornell Law School in 1984; her masters degree in philosophy, from the University of Connecticut Storrs in 1975 and her bachelor degree in philosophy in 1974 from the University of New Orleans.

Earlier in the day, Ms. Nile had a round table discussion with the press on "Race and Gender in the Workplace."

Ms. Nile, who concluded a two-day visit to the Kingdom, also lectured students and staff at the Amman Private University on African-American History, and met with women groups in Jordan.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Ministry lacks money and qualified personnel — official

** THE MINISTRY of Social Development has not failed in its mandate to provide humanitarian services to social institutions which look after certain groups in the society, an official at the ministry told Al Ra'i. "The real problem from which the ministry suffers and which represents an important obstacle to improve the situation at various institutions, is the financial factor," he pointed out.

The source explained that the ministry's budget amounts to about JD7 million, most of which goes to pay salaries and buy supplies, and the rest is not enough to upgrade the services at social institutions.

Furthermore, the source said, the Department of the Budget, does not allow allocations to buy toys for orphans and others who suffer from social problems and are given refuge at the ministry's social institutions. "This matter also causes difficulties to the ministry and prevents it from attaining its objective in addition to denying the children their natural right to play," the source said.

According to the source, 80 per cent of the staff at the ministry (or 658 employees) are not qualified to work in this area as their education is only up to the level of general secondary examination (Tawjihi) or less. With those who hold bachelor degree numbering only 264 employees, it is clear that the work is not easy and negatively affects performance (Al Ra'i).

JEDCO to close centre in Cairo in June

** THE JORDAN Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) has decided to close the Jordanian commercial centre in Cairo from the end of June, a JEDCO official said.

Bashar Khasawneh, director of promotion and commercial centres, justified the decision by saying that the centre in Cairo has achieved the objectives and targets in promoting Jordanian products and establishing a solid presence for them in Egypt. He said that the commercial councillor at the Jordanian embassy in Cairo in doing a very similar role to what the centre is doing at present.

By closing the centre in Egypt, the number of centres that JEDCO has closed will rise to five as JEDCO has previously closed the centres in Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Moscow (Al Dustour).

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen



"I need a sympathy card. A close friend of mine recently lost her husband to an online service."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SIGUE
LULBY
TRACCI
LAYDED

Now arrange the circled letters to form the purple answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: WITH

Yesterday's Jumbles: LATCH FAULT THWART ABLAZE
Answer: A good thing to avoid on vacation — A FLAT WALLET

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHEIKH SAHAB											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 05/03/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
269.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	14.6	1.31	7	2160	572660	267.00	266.50	-50	
2.100	1.900	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	14	4133	7996	1.94	1.94	-	
5.900	4.250	CABO JORDAN BANK	10.3	3.00	3	30000	150000	5.00	5.00	-	
3.650	2.900	BANK OF JORDAN	10.8	0.00	1	250	750	3.00	3.00	-	
2.950	2.440	JOR. KUSAAT BANK	19.8	0.00	4	228	622	2.73	2.73	-	
1.090	.840	JOR. GOLF BANK	5.1	8.24	25	59350	50437	.85	.85	-	
4.120	3.480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	18.4	0.00	14	36850	14735	3.82	3.84	.02	
3.800	3.000	JOR. INV. FUND BANK	17.3	0.00	1	150	160	3.20	3.20	-	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 200.51	CHNG: -0.12	69	100021	797359				
1.830	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PHR.	11.4	7.27	2	750	1231	1.65	1.65	-	
2.800	2.090	SHIPPING LINES	10.2	8.23	1	900	1218	2.46	2.43	-03	
1.840	1.080	WATL. PORTFOLIO	21.7	3.88	3	900	864	.96	.96	-	
1.050	.880	REAL ESTATE TRV.	30.8	0.00	1	50	30	.60	.60	-	
.970	.150	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	13.3	5.93	1	950	3202	3.37	3.37	-	
3.720	3.130	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	8.6	6.11	12	4750	8530	1.78	1.80	.02	
1.220	.960	KARKH EDUCATION	8.6	6.11	12	4750	8530	1.78	1.80	.02	
2.230	1.690	UNIFIED CO.	8	0.00	2	1200	912	.78	.78	-02	
1.200	.780	UNION LAND DEV.	8	0.00	2	1200	912	.78	.78	-02	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 106.72	CHNG: -0.13	40	14340	21855				
3.730	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.8	2.89	21	24633	84761	3.40	3.46	.06	
3.900	2.710	JOR. PROSPERITY HIRES	35.5	0.00	8	3550	11725	3.30	3.30	-	
6.100	4.950	ARAB POTASH CO.	18.2	3.33	4	650	3898	5.95	6.00	.05	
10.400	8.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.3	7.88	8	2090	21212	10.15	10.15	-	
1.590	1.150	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	61.3	0.00	8	10750	14876	1.38	1.38	-	
2.500	1.650	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	35.0	0.00	9	1550	4019	2.57	2.60	.03	
7.950	6.420	JOR. WOODSTOCK HILLS	8.9	3.60	1	100	895	6.95	6.95	-	
4.280	3.040	ARAB PHARM. IND.	20.7	5.31	4	800	3037	3.74	3.77	.03	
.980	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	24	23550	13244	.56	.56	-	
1.400	1.060	ARAB PAPER CO. LTD.	7.8	9.01	4	10500	12075	1.16	1.15	-01	
1.020	.540	NATIONAL INDS.	9.5	9.38	3	700	648	.65	.64	-01	
1.840	.930	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	5	0.00	7	700	205	1.02	1.03	.01	
1.150	.780	JOR. REFINERY INDS.	9	0.00	7	100	77	.81	.77	-04	
1.170	.670	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	9	0.00	1	150	102	.70	.68	-02	
1.670	1.080	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	28.1	0.00	17	6250	9361	1.50	1.50	-	
2.800	1.440	DIET. FOOD. INDS.	5.1	11.83	12	3100	5202	1.64	1.69	.05	
1.820	1.140	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	17.0	0.00	22	29800	39803	1.32	1.35	.03	
1.270	.840	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	24.2	0.00	5	1000	890	.90	.89	-01	
2.400	1.750	EL - RAY READY WEAR	2.4	0.00	1	150	278	1.86	1.85	-01	
1.470	.930	UNION CR. & SEC.	24.4	0.00	4	11000	10890	.99	.99	-	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 117.61	CHNG: +0.72	199	130623	236736				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 156.08	CHNG: +0.21	268	244984	1055980				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 05/03/1997											
.790	.500	JOR. TRADE FAC.	13.6	0.00	13	9550	4778	.50	.51	.01	
.850	.690	UNION INV. SOC.	66.0	0.00	8	13850	2632	.69	.69	-	
.840	.370	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	10	15850	6657	.43	.42	-01	
.640	.450	AL-DHULAYAN 75%	14.7	0.00	1	5000	2000	.65	.65	-	
.640	.210	JOR. INDS. MATCH-JEMCO	9	0.00	1	1000	220	.23	.22	-01	
.740	.510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	5	0.00	1	100	55	.59	.59	-	
.690	.450	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	5	0.00	1	100	55	.59	.59	-	
.610	.520	WATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	3	700	364	.52	.52	-	
.850	.400	WATL. MOLT. ENG. NAWICO	8	0.00	49	47150	20295	.44	.44	-	
.990	.720	JORDAN STEEL	8	0.00	19	12673	9777	.75	.74	-01	
.700	.450	ARAB ELECT. INDS.	7	0.00	7	9180	4681	.51	.51	-	
.750	.620	MIDWEST PHARM. 75%	2	0.00	3	850	310	.62	.61	-01	
.770	.570	RANK PHARM. 65%	2	0.00	12	13950	3209	.58	.58	-	
.680	.390	CHDS. ENG.	25.9	0.00	11	5500	2310	.43	.42	-01	
.950	.530	IND. REPAIR COMPLEX	7.7	0.00	6	4200	2765	.66	.66	-	
GRAND TOTAL			145	141553	60574						

JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE

DAJANI
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1 hour service
Develop your colour film
at our shop and get:
JUMBO photo size
30% larger.
* Free enlargement
20 x 30 cm.
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CF Valencia's Otero (R) and FC Schalke's Dutch forward Youri Mulder (L) fight for the ball during the first leg of their UEFA Cup quarterfinal match (Reuters photo)

Monaco take giant leap towards UEFA Cup semis

PARIS (AFP) — French league leaders Monaco took a giant stride towards the UEFA Cup semifinals on Tuesday when they handed England's last survivors Newcastle United a 1-0 defeat at St James' Park.

Sonny Anderson was the man who undid the Premiership side. The Brazilian striker blasted home his fourth goal in the tournament after 19-year-old Thierry Henry outpaced the Geordies' defence and cut the ball back.

The French League leaders, who had won all three of their previous away legs against Cracow, Hamburg and Borussia Moenchengladbach, made it an unhappy 46th birthday for Newcastle boss Kenny Dalglish, who watched Newcastle slide to only their second-ever home defeat in European competition.

Without three first-choice strikers and veteran Peter Beardsley, who was on the bench recovering from concussion, Newcastle were forced to field a strange-looking side with midfielder Robert Lee thrust into the centre-forward role.

But the makeshift forma-

tion failed to paper over the cracks created by the absence of injured England strikers Alan Shearer (groin) and Les Ferdinand (hamstring), while the invention of suspended Colombian Faustino Asprilla was also badly missed.

French winger David Ginola, who threatened to quit the club unless he was picked for the clash, tried manfully to impose himself on the game, but was effectively policed by a well-matched defence.

Newcastle missed what few chances they did create with Keith Gillespie unlucky with a fine diving header from Rob Lee's searching cross to the far post.

And the young winger then brought a brilliant save out of Monaco keeper Fabien Barthez with a half-volley from close range.

Gillespie also cleared off the line six minutes from time after Benarbia's from a John Collins' corner had beaten keeper Shaka Hislop.

In the dying minutes, United's Belgian defender Philippe Albert missed badly when the ball fell to

him in the Monaco area after a scramble from a corner.

Favourites Inter Milan meanwhile earned a precious 1-1 draw away to Anderlecht of Belgium, Maurizio Ganz scoring a late equaliser after Bruno Versavel had given Anderlecht a first-half lead with a neat half-volley.

English coach Roy Hodgson's tactical switch to a more attacking line-up midway through the second-half paid, handsome dividends as he brought on Ganz with 25 minutes remaining to provide a vital away goal after the side had trailed for nearly an hour.

And within ten minutes he had snatched home a loose ball just inside the far post after the Belgians failed to clear a Marco Branca effort.

England midfielder Paul Ince might have secured a win for Inter but he drove just over from just outside the area.

Thomas Linke gave Germany's last representatives Schalke 04 a great start by heading home an Olaf Thon freekick against Valencia just seconds before the break.

Dutch striker Marc Wilmots then moved Schalke closer to their first European semi-final for 27 years when he slid in to connect with a Jiri Nemec cross and kneed the ball home with eight minutes left to play.

But Wilmots and Linke will automatically miss the return-leg in Spain in two weeks time since both picked up yellow cards.

Valencia, had their best chance in the second minute when a Leonardo hit the bar.

Tenerife, the other Spanish side still in the competition, crashed to a 1-0 defeat at home against Danish opponents Brondy who scored the only goal of the match after half-an-hour.

Tenerife, who had gone into the match riding high on last week's 4-0 league victory over Barcelona, finished with ten men after Robaina was sent off five minutes from time.

Earlier Jokanovic, who scored twice from the spot against Barcelona, had a golden chance to make it 1-1 but missed a penalty.

Swimming federation gets approval for Olympic-size pool

Ambitious plan includes forming waterpolo, diving teams

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Swimming Federation (JSF) has ambitious plans which aim at raising the level of the sport in Jordan. JSF President Ma'moun Nour Al Deen announced his federation's new plans for the upcoming year and said the long awaited plan to build a new Olympic-size swimming pool has been approved by the Ministry of Youth.

Until now the national team did not have a training site and swimmers had

to rely on training at their respective clubs which are also limited.

"A serious approach will be taken towards the game in this year. With the right support and persistence we are sure we'll gain results," Nour Al Deen told the Jordan Times.

"We finally received the approval from the Ministry of Youth to build a new Olympic-size swimming pool," he added.

The new swimming pool will be built on a plot of 4,900 dunums at Al Hussein Sports City.

The JSF president said

they depended on the support of people and the Ministry of Youth.

"We are ready to cooperate with all those who can support us to build this swimming pool," he added.

The JSF is currently on a high note after swimming from Al Hussein Youth City and Orthodox Club returned from Morocco after a successful participation in an international swimming championship.

"Our team returned with a gold medal from Morocco," the JSF president happily noted.

Saeed Nasser received the

gold medal. In addition the team earned four silver and three bronze medals.

The JSF president added that this achievement is the first for the newly-formed federation.

A busy schedule awaits the swimming team for the upcoming season including taking part in the Arab Sports Tournament in July in Lebanon and the Junior Arab Championship in Kuwait in September.

The other major plan will be forming a national teams in waterpolo and diving.

Dennis Rodman suspended again

CHICAGO (AFP) — The National Basketball Association's (NBA's) rebound leader Dennis Rodman has been suspended again — this time for one game after hitting an opponent in the groin.

Rodman will miss the game here against his former club, the San Antonio Spurs, and pay a \$7,500-fine for slapping Milwaukee's Joe Wolf during a 108-90 victory Monday over the Bucks.

Rodman was suspended for 11 games and fined \$25,000 for kicking cameraman Eugene Amos during a January 15 game at Minnesota.

That suspension was the second longest in NBA history.

Rodman lost \$1.1 million from his nine million-dollar season's salary during the suspension and vowed to donate his first 11 game paychecks after the suspension to charities.

This marks the third suspension of the season for Rodman, who was banned for two games by the Bulls after a curse-filled rant at the referees in a December loss at Toronto. That banishment cost him more than \$200,000.

The five-time rebounding champion with the multi-coloured hair and body of tattoos is featured in a seductive pose wearing a two-piece bathing suit this week on the cover of a major United States sports magazine.

Rodman's various tantrums have helped him cultivate an outcast image that has helped place him ninth among U.S. sports personalities in 1996 earnings with \$12.9 million.

Rodman's history includes a six-game suspension last year for head-butting referee Ted Bernhardt. But he kept calm when he came back to the Bulls and helped Chicago to a 72-10 mark and a fourth title in six years.

Pistons, Sonics, Cavs lose

ATLANTA (R) — Tyrone Corbin and Christian Laettner scored 21 points apiece as the Atlanta Hawks held off the Cleveland Cavaliers for their fourth win in five games, 93-88 on Tuesday.

Mookie Blaylock added 19 points for the Hawks, who have won 24 of 27 home games.

Tyrone Hill had 18 points and 12 rebounds and Bobby Phillips added 17 points for Cleveland.

"I thought we did a good job in the first half, we just have to execute down the stretch," Hill said. "I think they were more aggressive than we were, they were more hungry than we were."

In Charlotte, Anthony Mason had his third triple-double of the season with 19 points, 13 rebounds and a career-high 12 assists, leading the Charlotte Hornets to their eighth win in nine games, 105-98 over the San Antonio Spurs.

Mason made 7-of-10 shots from the field as the Hornets shot a season-high 54.5 percent (36-for-66) from the floor.

Glen Rice scored 24 points and Dell Curry added 20 for the Hornets, who took both meetings from the Spurs this season.

In Dallas, Nick Van Exel scored a season-high 37 points, including eight three-pointers, as the Los Angeles Lakers claimed just their second win in six games, 102-91 over the Dallas Mavericks.

Van Exel made 8-of-14 three-point attempts, including three in a row in a 2:14 stretch of the third quarter.

"Nick (Van Exel) was magnificent," Lakers coach Del Harris said. "I thought our guys did a great job defensively. They were very supportive of one another."

Los Angeles' Elden Campbell and Dallas' Shawn Bradley were ejected following an altercation with 2:55 remaining.

In Detroit, Tim Hardaway scored 13 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, including consecutive three-pointers, as the Miami Heat turned back the Detroit Pistons, 108-99.

Hardaway also dished out a season-high 16 assists and Voshon Lenard chipped in with 21 points for Miami, which improved to 3-2 without injured centre Alonzo Mourning.

P.J. Brown added a season-high 18 points.

Lindsay Hunter scored 26 points and Joe Dumars added 21 for the Pistons, who allowed 100 or more points for just the sixth time in 58 games this season.

At Indiana, Reggie Miller scored 29 points and Dale Davis added 20 points and



New York Knicks guard John Starks (L) manages to turn the corner on Milwaukee Bucks guard Ray Allen to drive to the basket in the first period of their NBA game at New York's Madison Square Garden. New York defeated Milwaukee 93-86 (Reuters photo)

16 rebounds to lead the Indiana Pacers to their fourth straight victory, 98-95 over the Boston Celtics.

Mark Jackson had 12 points and 13 assists and made six free throws over the final 20.6 seconds as Indiana won for the sixth time in its last seven meetings with Boston.

David Wesley scored 22 points and Todd Day 19 for the Celtics.

In Los Angeles, Matt Bullard scored 24 points and Hakeem Olajuwon recorded a triple-double as the Houston Rockets snapped an eight-game road losing streak with a 113-109 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Olajuwon had 22 points, 16 rebounds and a season-high 10 assists for his 14th career triple-double.

Loy Vaught and Darriq Martin scored 23 points apiece for the Clippers.

In New York, Larry Johnson completed a critical three-point play with just over a minute remaining as the New York Knicks nearly squandered a 16-point fourth-quarter lead but hung on to hand the Milwaukee Bucks their seventh straight loss, 93-86.

Knicks centre Patrick Ewing left early in the fourth quarter after injuring his knee in a collision with Bucks point guard Sherman Douglas.

New York was comfortably ahead at the time, but saw its lead evaporate and needed Ewing's presence in the final two minutes.

In Philadelphia, Calbert Cheaney scored 24 points, including a jumper with 19.2 seconds to play that snapped a tie, as the Washington Bullets edged the Philadelphia 76ers, 107-106.

Juwan Howard added 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Bullets, who broke a nine-game road losing streak.

Jerry Stackhouse scored 25 points and Derrick Coleman added 23 for Philadelphia.

In Portland, former net Kenny Anderson had 28 points and 14 assists and Cliff Robinson also scored 28 points as the Portland Trail Blazers handed New Jersey its sixth straight road loss, 123-118.

New Jersey held a 13-point lead at the end of the third quarter, but Anderson made a free throw to cap an 18-4 run and give the Trail Blazers a 108-107 edge with 5:05 left in the fourth.

Kerry Kittles scored 26 points off the bench and Sam Cassell added 25 for the Nets.

In Seattle, Dennis Scott hit three three-pointers in a game-breaking run and Penny Hardaway scored all of his 26 points in the second half as the Orlando Magic salvaged a split of a transcontinental home-and-home series with a 101-89 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics.

Rony Seikaly and Gerald Wilkins added 18 points apiece for the Magic.

Gary Payton scored 23 points and Hershey Hawkins added 20 for Seattle, which lost for just the second time in 11 games.

Athlete admitted taking killer drug EPO

LAUSANNE (R) — A male athlete was thrown out of the Atlanta Olympics after admitting taking the killer drug erythropoietin (EPO), it was revealed on Tuesday.

The athlete from Eastern Europe admitted to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that he was taking the drug which is suspected to have killed 18 cyclists in Europe in the last 10 years, a leading IOC official said.

"An athlete was expelled from the Olympic village after he confessed to the Medical Commission that he had used EPO," IOC Medical Commission Vice-President Jacques Rogge said in an interview broadcast on Danish Television.

"It was an athlete from an Eastern European coun-

try who was being investigated for another drug. During the interrogation he admitted that he had taken EPO, signed a form and was disqualified," he added in a tape of the broadcast made available to Reuters in Lausanne.

The IOC has yet to introduce a test for the dangerous substance whose abuse is believed to be widespread in cycling and could also be useful in endurance events such as rowing or cross-country skiing.

But the EPO case in Atlanta has not been widely publicised. Olympic officials announced just two positive cases of drug abuse at the Games involving two female track and field athletes who were banned for steroid abuse.

It is also unclear whether

the IOC has taken any further action against the athlete involved. In the past, athletes such as former German sprinter Katrin Krabbe have been banned for unsportsmanlike conduct after admitting to taking banned substances.

EPO, which was first introduced in the mid-1980s to treat kidney disease, is one of the most dangerous drugs used by athletes who want to cheat their way to success.

Some experts have dubbed it the drug used by athletes who live by the motto: "Better dead than second."

It stimulates the production of red blood cells which transport oxygen around the body — a quick shot-in-the-arm which replaces expensive training at high altitude.

EPO is produced naturally in humans but if it enters the body artificially it can be fatal, making the blood thick and gluey and breaking down the entire circulatory system. This can lead to heart attacks.

"I believe athletes used EPO and growth hormones but that is my subjective opinion," Rogge said.

The IOC is working on a test for EPO but it cannot say whether it will have a test in place by next year's winter Olympics in Nagano.

Olympic officials are also unlikely to be ready to test for human growth hormones — the expensive designer drugs which are rapidly replacing muscle-building steroids as a short-cut to glory — by the 2000 Sydney Summer Games.

TODAY AT

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PHILADELPHIA "1"

Eddie Murphy, Jada Pinkett & James Coburn.... in

THE NUTTY PROFESSOR

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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PHILADELPHIA "2"

Brad Pitt, Julia Ormond, Anthony Hopkins & Aidan Quinn...in

LEGENDS OF THE FALL

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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PLAZA

Adel Imam, Shireen & Saeed Saleh

Bakhit Wa Adillah (2)

Al Jardal Walkankah

Shows: 12:00, 2:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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CONCORD "1" CURT RUSSEL & STEVEN SEGAL...IN

EXECUTIVE DECISION

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Sports

Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, March 6-7, 1997 11

Faisali return home today after 3rd place finish in Arab Champions Cup

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Faisali's delegation to the Arab Champions Cup returns home Thursday after taking part in the Arab Champions Cup — the four-team competition grouping the Arab World's league and cup champions.

Al Faisali's participation made Jordanian soccer history as they became the first of the Kingdom's teams to participate in the elite event which aims at naming the best Arab team.

Egypt's Al Ahli won the title becoming the third team to lift the championship trophy after Saudi Arabia's Al Shabab took the first and Tunisia's Al Taraji took the second championship.

Al Faisali's Mohammad Mahadin received the best player award, Al Ahli's Hadi Khashabeh was named top scorer and Isam Hadari top goalie. Al Ahli were also named the ideal team with 24 points and Al Faisali came in second with 20 points.

Champions Al Ahli received the winners' check of \$50,000. Khreibkeh got \$25,000, Al Faisali \$15,000 and Al Raja' \$10,000.

HRH Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, president of the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF), attended the final matches and conveyed His Majesty King Hussein's congratulations to Al Faisali's delegation.

During his two-day visit, Prince Abdullah, met with King Hassan of Morocco



HRH Prince Abdullah poses with Al Faisali and team officials (file photo)

and held talks with Arab Soccer Federation President Prince Faisal Ben Fahd.

Al Ahli won the title after defeating Morocco's Al Raja' 2-0 in the final minutes of the match.

Al Faisali held Morocco's Khreibkeh to a goalless draw, beat Al Raja' 2-1 and lost to Al Ahli 4-0 in the competition which was concluded in Casablanca, Morocco Monday.

Arab Soccer Federation officials highly praised Al Faisali's participation and good showing as they had the chance to even win the championship in their

match against Khreibkeh but they failed to convert two last minute chances when one shot cleared the goal while the other hit the post.

The overall standings were determined by the match grouping Al Ahli and Al Raja' which also looked destined to end in a goalless draw which would have given Khreibkeh the title.

However, Al Ahli delighted fans when they converted a free kick to score the first goal in the 98th minute and added a second goal from a penalty kick in the fifth minute of injury time.

Al Faisali had qualified to the championship after finishing runner up to Khreibkeh in the Arab Cup Winners Cup last summer.

Al Faisali's 29-member delegation includes players: Anis Shafiq, Walid Abu Hmeid, Freidon Saeed, Mohammad Mahadin, Ahmad Khalil, Firas Khalaleh, Ali Zu'bi, Ihab Nasr, Rami Abu Fanar, Osama Talal, Rateb Awadat, Ziyad Abu Shanab, Jamal Abu Abed, Subhi Suleiman, Hassaneh Sheikh, Hatem Aqel, Haitham Shubul, Jiryes Tadros, Mahmoud Matar, Ja'far Hammad, Mansour Tawaiha, Raed Jbour.

Redskins extend coach's contract

WASHINGTON (R) — Despite a shocking second-half collapse that left Washington out of the playoffs, the Redskins Tuesday extended the contract of head coach Norv Turner for three years, locking him up through the 2001 season.

Financial terms of the new deal were not disclosed. Turner had two years left on the five-year, \$3 million contract he signed before taking over the team for the 1994 season.

Washington exploded to a 7-1 start last season, giving fans thoughts of title contention and possible home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Instead, the Redskins went into a tailspin, losing six of their next seven games — a slide that eliminated them from the playoffs before the final game of the season. They finished with a 9-7 record, a huge disappointment given their terrific start.

But Turner, who came to the Redskins after helping the Dallas Cowboys win the Super Bowl as their offensive coordinator, has presided over steady improvement in Washington, earning him the contract extension.

The club was 3-13 with no home wins in his first season with the Redskins, but improved by three victories in each of the following two campaigns.

Samaranch to rule for another 4 years

LAUSANNE (AFP) — Juan Antonio Samaranch will remain as head of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for another four years it was announced here on Wednesday.

He was asked by the IOC's executive committee to remain as president and the 76-year-old accepted.

"It was not difficult to say yes," said Samaranch, who has been president since 1980.

His reelection will be formally confirmed at the IOC congress in September.

IOC Senior Vice-President Marc Hodler said the executive committee was unanimous in its decision to ask the former Spanish diplomat to stand again.

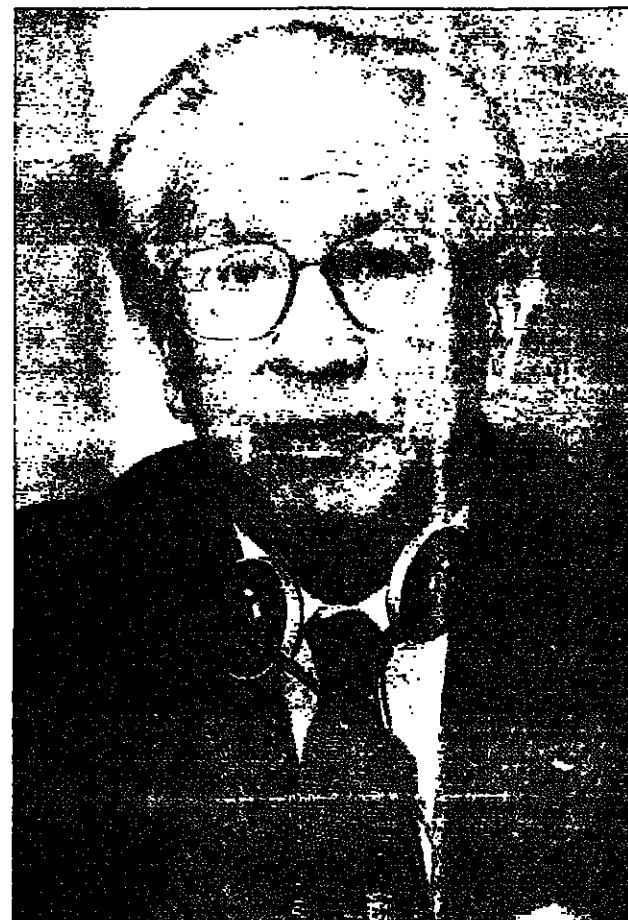
"And we were delighted he said yes," added Hodler.

It has long been assumed Samaranch would stand for a fourth term after the IOC voted at Budapest in June 1995, to raise the retirement age to 80, three days after Samaranch had failed to abolish the age-limit altogether.

The change meant Samaranch could extend his reign until 2001, when he would be 81.

The previous age-limit had been 75 and under the old rule Samaranch, whose mandate runs to September, would have become ineligible.

There had been reported plans to ask Samaranch to



Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), addresses a news conference in Lausanne on the eve of the Olympic bid ceremony for the 2004 Olympic Games. Samaranch announced his candidacy for the IOC presidential election in September 97 (Reuters photo)

stand again at the Atlanta Olympics but they were put on hold.

Last year Samaranch, first elected at the Moscow Games, secured television

deals worth \$5.5 billion, stretching to the 2008 Games.

They were formally signed here on Wednesday.

Zenga signs with MLS club

ROXBORO (R) — Veteran goalkeeper Walter Zenga, who started for Italy's World Cup teams in 1986 and 1990, has signed with the New England Revolution of Major League Soccer, the team announced Tuesday.

Zenga, who recorded 38 shutouts in 58 international appearances as goalkeeper for Italy between 1986 and 1992, had been playing for Padova in the Italian league's second division.

"Walter is a player of the highest order and we are delighted to have someone with his experience to help lead our team," Revolution coach Thomas Rongen said in a statement issued by the team.

Terms of Zenga's contract with New England were not disclosed, nor were details of the transfer fee paid to Padova for his services.

The 37-year-old Zenga appeared in 369 matches

with Italian League, first division clubs Internazionale of Milan and Sampdoria of Genoa and is a veteran of 160 Italian and European Cup matches.

Zenga last appeared in goal for Italy at Foxboro Stadium — home of the revolution — in the U.S. Cup '92 tournament in a 2-0 victory over Ireland.

On the Revolution, Zenga will be reunited with U.S. National team

defender Alexi Lalas, who was a teammate of Zenga's at Padova.

"Signing a player of Walter Zenga's stature is a big step toward building a championship team," New England general manager Brian O'Donovan said.

"Our fans, the Revolution, and MLS have just cause to be excited today."

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Exhibition will be open between 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Iversen scores hat-trick

LONDON (AFP) — Steffen Iversen doubled his season's goal tally with a superb hat-trick as Tottenham thrashed fellow strugglers Sunderland 4-0 at Roker Park on Tuesday. The Norwegian striker, with just three goals to his credit since his 2.6 million pound move (about \$4.1 million) from Rosenborg in December, netted twice in the first 10 minutes as Spurs took complete command.

Dutch duo crash at home

ROTTERDAM (AFP) — Jan Siemerink and Paul Hazenhuis provided a "double-Dutch" shock in the first round of the \$750,000 ATP Tour event here on Tuesday when they crashed in front of the home fans at the first hurdle. Siemerink went down in tiebreaks 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/2) to Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic, while Hazenhuis was beaten 6-3, 6-4 by Germany's Martin Sinner. Richard Krajicek beat Czech opponent Martin Damm 6-4, 6-2.

Sjoberg out of indoor event

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's former world record high jump champion Patrik Sjoberg has decided not to take part in the World Indoor Championships in Paris this weekend, Swedish newspapers said on Tuesday. Tabloid newspaper Aftonbladet said Sjoberg was now injury free but did not feel adequately prepared to compete in Paris.

Ageless Slaney defies test of time

PARIS (AFP) — Veteran American distance runner Mary Slaney will defy the test of time when she competes in the World Indoor Athletic Championships here this weekend.

The 38-year-old Slaney, who took time off to have a daughter in 1986, has shown remarkable resilience to return to the top of a sport she dominated both indoors and outdoors.

She has overcome several leg injuries and asthma to become "queen of the boards" again in America after an absence of eight years from indoor competition.

And has set times this season that have raised quite a few eyebrows, and suggested that she is on course to snatch gold in the 1,500 metres at an age when most athletes are sitting at home talking about past triumphs.

Slaney, who set 16 indoor world bests between 1974-85, has run the fastest mile by any athlete in three years this season, finishing in 4 minutes 26.67 seconds at the Millrose games in New York and then cantered

home last weekend in the U.S. 1,500 metres indoor trial in 4min 03.08secs, the fastest time run in the world in seven years.

The New Jersey born Slaney is so confident that she is warning people to look out for her breaking Romanian Doina Melinte's seven-year-old world indoor 1500 metres record of 4mins 02.7seconds at the championships.

"I feel like my old self again. I wasn't right at the Atlanta Olympics last year but now that I have had treatment for my asthmatic condition I can go out there and be aggressive and not run out of steam," Slaney said.

Slaney has apparently contracted exercise induced asthma, which she has tried to offset with heavy usage of inhalers and a more laboured practice session.

"I feel that I am capable of running under four minutes, and Melinte's record is in real danger," Slaney added.

But despite her performances Slaney will be forever remembered for her infamous entanglement

with Zola Budd at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Slaney, who became the youngest her country at the age of 14-years and 224 days in 1973 and beat the Soviet Union's reigning Olympic 800 metres champion Nijole Sabaitė, went into the 3,000 metres final as an even money favourite to douse the fire of Zola, the barefooted front running South African born naturalised English teenager.

However, disaster struck as Budd reduced the pace and Slaney tripped over one of Budd's legs and crashed to the ground — the British athlete was then roundly booed for the remainder of the race and never recovered from the experience.

Slaney, the reigning 1,500 metres and 3,000 world champion at the time, rounded on Budd after the race particularly mindful that she had missed out on the greatest prize of them all — Olympic gold in front of her home fans.

"I realise she was young and inexperienced in major championship running

because of sporting sanctions on South Africa, but I still feel that she should not even have been there. Thanks to the publicity campaign of several English newspapers she got her naturalisation far quicker than usual, and it cost me dear," Slaney said.

However, Slaney admitted that she had probably run the wrong type of race up to that point and had changed her tactics since then.

"If you go back to '84 when I fell, if I had gone out harder, that wouldn't have happened," Slaney said. "Now that I feel better I can push myself and that's what sport is really about, being competitive."

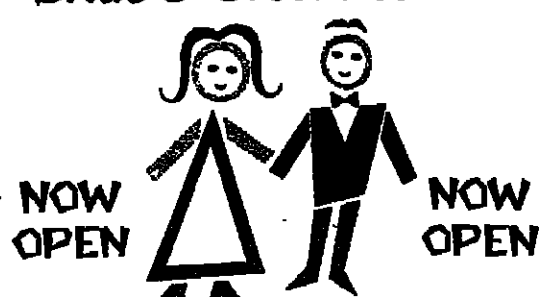
For Slaney 1984 will forever be regarded as a nightmare but were she to become the first woman to run a sub four minute 1,500 metres the pain would be that much less and the memories of a smiling athletic legend would replace that of the bitter tear stained face that left the Los Angeles stadium.

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WHERE'S THE LOSER?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

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♥ 10 9 8 3

♦ A 9 8 6 4 3 2

♣ A 8

WEST ♠ K J 7 3

♥ J 8 7

♦ Q 10

♣ K Q 10 7

EAST ♠ Q 10 8 6

♥ 4

♦ K J 5

♣ A J 9 5 4 2

SOUTH ♠ A 9 5 4

♥ A K Q 8 2

♦ 7

♣ A 6 3

The bidding: King of ♠

This deal was reported by Alan

Palk of Lansing, Mich. After West

led the king of clubs, South could

not be stopped from making the

heart slam. Your task is to study

the diagram, then identify which

trick declarer lost.

What interest by cue-bidding the ace of spades, North cooperated by cue-bidding the ace of diamonds, and South proceeded forthwith to six hearts.

To bring home the slam, you are going to have to set up and run dummy's diamonds. To accomplish that, you need to find trumps no worse than 3-1 and diamonds 3-2.

Win the ace of clubs, cash the ace of hearts and diamonds, then ruff a diamond high! Now lead a low heart. West can do no better than win the jack, and it makes no difference what that defender returns. Suppose it is a trump? You win in dummy with the nine, ruff another diamond high to establish the suit, then get back to dummy with a ruff to run the diamonds. So move to the top of the class if you selected the jack of trumps as your only loser.

What if diamonds were 4-1? You can still get home, provided trumps are 3-1 and the jack is unguarded. That gives you just enough entries to the table to ruff another diamond high, extract the remaining fang and concede a diamond. Dummy still has a trump entry to cash the long diamond.

LAYOUT ARTISTS DUBAI

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THE FINEST IN THE SKY

Lower House pursues work despite opposition boycott

Islamists, maintaining their position, demand action against Israel for settlement project

By Maria Bizri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Despite a boycott by 15 opposition members, the Lower House of Parliament continued its legislative duties on Wednesday ratifying 40 of 365 articles of the customs draft law.

Opposition deputies decided to boycott Parliament sessions until further notice unless the government takes a stronger stance on Israeli settlement policies and attempts of Judaizing Jerusalem.

Opposition deputies staged a walk-out from Parliament last Sunday to protest the government's position on the Israeli decision to allow building activity in Jabal Abu Ghneim.

Islamist deputies Wednesday forwarded a statement to Parliament and press stating that they will refrain from attending sessions "given the inadequate governmental response towards Jerusalem as well as continued Israeli violation of Arab land."

"We believe in our responsibility towards the Holy City and we will press the government to take an appropriate stance on the vital issue of settlements in Jerusalem. We demand that a special session be dedicated to discuss the status of Jerusalem and ask our fellow deputies to cooperate with us in order to reach a comprehensive solution," said an Islamic Action Front (IAF) statement.

In an interview with Jordan Times, IAF Deputy Bassam Emoush reiterated his party's stance stressing the urgency of taking "necessary steps" against Israeli settlement activities without further delay.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "means what he says and acts on it," Dr. Emoush said, adding "we need to intensify opposition to his actions not only locally, but at the Arab and international level as well."

Dr. Emoush added that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat "should take the opportunity to exert pressure on the Israeli government in order to honour and fulfill Palestinian-Israeli agreements."

Dr. Emoush said the IAF had met with a number of party leaders, unions and organ-

isations to mobilise efforts and pressure the government into taking the necessary steps to secure the sovereignty of Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, the IAF called on a number of political party leaders, unions, parliamentary blocs, women and youth organisations as well as press associations to study the dimensions of the "Zionist decision to build more settlements on Jabal Abu Ghneim," a statement released after the meeting said.

The statement stressed that the Israeli decision to build Jewish homes on Jabal Abu Ghneim will result in the encapsulation of Arab East Jerusalem by Jewish settlements and its isolation from all neighbouring Palestinian cities and villages.

"The issue of Jerusalem and Palestine is one for which all Arabs must take responsibility," said the statement, adding that "the United States' strategic alliance with the Zionist enemy has had an important role in enabling the expansion and settlement of the Zionist entry on Arab land."

The statement called for "the unification of efforts to invalidate all Arab-Israeli treaties and agreements until Arab rights are restored."

During its session Wednesday, the Lower House stopped at article 42 of the customs draft law which prohibits the entry into the country of foreign products which do not comply with trademark and licensing regulations.

Deputy Abdul Rauf Rawabdeh called for the removal of the article based on the fact that trademark and licensing regulations do not exist in the Kingdom, adding that "this provision was imported in order to protect foreign products in Jordanian market."

Responding to Mr. Rawabdeh, Minister of Finance Marwan Awad said that he believed such regulations actually existed at the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The article which was approved by a 45 to 15 vote drew sharp criticism from Mr. Rawabdeh, who attempted a walk-out but was held back by other members.

The Lower House was unable to continue its session after the break as a number of deputies did not return and hence the House failed to secure quorum.

Peru is upbeat despite rebels asylum rejection

LIMA (R) — Peruvian officials remained upbeat on Tuesday about a peaceful solution to Lima's 11-week hostage siege despite a statement by Marxist rebels holding 72 men captive that rejected plans to grant them asylum abroad.

Congress President Victor Joy Way, a pro-government lawmaker, said Monday's eighth round of face-to-face talks between the government and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) rebels brought progress.

"As far as we know, there has been an advance where each side has outlined its position," Mr. Joy Way told local radio.

He added that President Alberto Fujimori's weekend trip to the Caribbean — where he clinched an offer to grant the guerrillas asylum in Cuba — had brought a bloodless end to the siege closer.

"In case the final decision reached implies an exit (from Peru) for the MRTA, he is working to facilitate that exit," said Mr. Joy Way, a member of Mr. Fujimori's change 90-new majority coalition.

But earlier on Tuesday, rebel chief Nestor Cerna poured cold water on the asylum proposal, insisting the rebels want to stay in Peru and urging the government instead focus on their main demand of freedom for some 400 jailed comrades.

"Our first priority is to stay in our fatherland, which is the path we have chosen to fight at the side of our people," Mr. Cerna said in a walkie-talkie conversation from within the captured Japanese ambassador's residence monitored by Reuters.

Mr. Cerna specifically ruled out a rumoured asylum deal involving the Dominican Republic, but drew short of rejecting Cuban President Fidel Castro's offer of refuge made on Monday.

"We have no intention of looking for exile or asylum in the Dominican Republic, and even less in any country that oppresses its people," he said.

"With respect to the Cuban government's willingness to

Israelis demolish 2 Hebron homes

HEBRON (AP) — Israel demolished two Palestinian homes Wednesday, claiming they were built illegally. Police scuffled with the women and children who tried to prevent the demolition.

The one-storey homes are located in the one-fifth of Hebron that Israel still controls, and belong to Taha Abu Sneh and Jamal Abu Eram. Both were just completed when Israeli officials arrived with two bulldozers and police.

The demolition was delayed two hours when Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe and Palestinian legislator Jamal Shobaki joined a group of women and children and sat in front of the Abu Eram home.

"The reason why Palestinians build homes without licences is because the Israelis do not give us permits," Mr. Shobaki said. Mr. Natshe and Mr. Shobaki eventually left the area after Israeli officials arrived to persuade them to clear the way.

There were no injuries or arrests.

NEW YORK (AP) — Senator Alfonse D'Amato says a Jordanian who admits he changed evidence to protect a man who fired at a van of Hasidic students should be kicked out of the country without delay.

"The intent of Congress is clear: people who come to the United States, overstay their visa, and commit a felony should not be allowed to remain in the United States. This case cries out for immediate deportation. To do otherwise, would be a mockery of justice," Mr. D'Amato wrote in a letter to Immigration Judge Gabriel C. Videla.

Mr. Videla is considering the case against Hilal Mohammad, a 34-year-old



CROWN PRINCE SEEN OFF: His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah on Wednesday see off His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan upon his departure for London. At left is Nasser Judeh, director-general of Jordan Television (see page 1) (Petra photo)

Mubarak tells Netanyahu to live up to Israel's agreements

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told Israel on Wednesday to abide by its peace agreements with the Palestinians but urged both sides to "quiet the tone" over the building of new Jewish settlements in Arab East Jerusalem.

"The Jerusalem issue is a very warm issue now. I hope it will be solved in a convenient way for both sides and not create problems," Mr. Mubarak said at the end of two hours of talks in Cairo with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Mubarak called on both sides to "quiet the tone for the time being until we reach something to help resolve it."

Mr. Netanyahu, standing next to the Egyptian president at a joint press conference, stressed that he was "committed" to pursuing the peace process.

But he described the controversial building of settlements, as "natural," citing a housing shortage for both Israelis and Palestinians in Jerusalem.

"It is natural to build houses. This (Jerusalem) is

a living city," he said.

"The construction that we are doing for Jewish residents in Har Homa is construction on land which is 75 per cent private Jewish land. We are not going to expropriate huge chunks of Palestinian land," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu said his government, unlike previous Israeli ones, allocated \$50 million this year to build infrastructure in Arab East Jerusalem for Arab population, in addition to building Jewish settlements.

He insisted that the 1993 Oslo peace accords were "very clear and do not deal at all with the question of Jerusalem."

"Until the interim agreement there shouldn't be any governmental activity on the part of the Palestinian Authority in Jerusalem," Mr. Netanyahu said, a day after he ordered the closure of four Palestinian offices in Arab East Jerusalem.

Mr. Mubarak disagreed and, taking a paper from his pocket, quoted article 5 of the Oslo accords, saying "the remaining issues including Jerusalem ... shall be negotiated in the permanent state of negotiations."

"We had hoped that this situation could have not been moved now until negotiations on the final status," which are to start later this month, Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Mubarak said he was "not convinced" by Mr. Netanyahu's explanations, adding that he would meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Friday to brief him on the discussions and see what could be done to resolve the situation.

Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Mubarak also discussed the fate of Israeli national Azzam Azzam, who will face trial here in April on charges that he spied for the Jewish state.

Asked by an Israeli journalist if he could pledge to free Azzam after the trial, Mr. Mubarak replied: "I cannot give you a promise now. I am waiting to see what is going to happen. We are not closing the door."

Several Egyptian dailies voiced outrage on Wednesday over Mr. Netanyahu's one-day visit and urged Mr. Mubarak to adopt a firm stance in his permanent state of negotiations.

(Continued on page 7)

World offers quake relief to Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has received numerous offers of foreign assistance after it appealed for help to cope with the devastation left by last week's earthquake in the northwestern region of Ardabil.

The German embassy announced here Wednesday that its government would provide \$250,000 in humanitarian aid to victims of the quake, which left at least 1,100 people dead and 2,600 injured.

It said 250,000 marks (\$155,000) would come from the Foreign Ministry and 150,000 marks (\$95,000) from the German Red Cross. The Iranian Red Crescent will use the funds for water tanks, food and warm clothing.

France also pledged help on Wednesday, but did not say how much it would contribute.

The Danish embassy said its government had set aside \$35,000 for the victims, which would be forwarded to Iran's Red Crescent Society.

U.N. agencies have announced \$450,000 in aid, \$35,000 of which it said was contributed by Norway.

The offer came after Iran launched an appeal on Tuesday for international aid for the 60,000 people left homeless in Iran's deadliest quake in seven years.

In coordination with the United Nations, Iranian authorities drew up a list of urgent needs to be sought from the world community for the homeless and other survivors of the quake.

According to the latest official casualty toll provided by the Red Cross in Geneva, the quake, which registered 5.5 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale, killed at least 1,100 people and injured 2,600.

Iran's last such appeal dates back to 1990 when around 40,000 people were killed in an earthquake which struck the Rudbar Valley, located, as is Ardabil, near the Caspian Sea.

The Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies in Geneva appealed on Wednesday for \$6.5 million for the victims of the Iranian quake.

Iran's Red Crescent said it expected help from Britain, Switzerland and Japan.

Saudi Arabia said Monday it planned to send two plane-loads of relief aid to Iran and Pakistan, which was also hit by a deadly earthquake last Friday (Jordan sends relief, page 3).

The U.N. office in Tehran, having sent a team to the area, said the number of people affected was 60,000.

Iran's Red Crescent said it planned to distribute the aid donated by foreign countries in a week after completing its assessment of damages.

It said relief was reaching the entire quake-stricken areas as the weather conditions improved in the region.

Rescuers initially had difficulties reaching some far-flung areas because of heavy snowfalls and rough terrain in a mountainous region.

Lebanon to try 5 Red Army suspects

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon will charge five suspected members of the Japanese Red Army on Thursday with passport forgery and other offences which carry up to three years jail, judicial sources said on Wednesday.

The five would be charged with possessing and using forged passports, forging Lebanese immigration stamps, entering the country illegally and illegal residence, the sources told Reuters.

Three other Japanese held under detention with the Red Army suspects would be released on Thursday, they said.

The three were identified as Sei Harada, Moroshima Takayuki and Shamano Yushiyuki.

Japanese officials on Wednesday met the suspects detained in Beirut, Lebanon's Prosecutor-General Adnan Addoum said.

The meetings, which took place at the Beirut law courts in the presence of Lebanese judicial authorities, were the first between Japanese officials and the suspects who were detained by Lebanon on Feb. 15.

In Damascus, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met with a senior Japanese envoy sent to investigate the arrests in Lebanon, officials said. Hiroshi Hirabayashi raised "the issue of the Japanese prisoners in Lebanon and Tokyo's position on the matter after his meetings in Beirut," a Japanese diplomat said.

Mr. Hirabayashi met earlier Wednesday with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa in talks that were described as "cordial and useful."

The Japanese prime minister's envoy stressed "the need to reinforce the ties of friendship" between the two countries, the diplomat said. Syria is the main powerbroker in Lebanon, where it maintains 35,000 troops.

Mr. Hirabayashi's visit came shortly after Japan's Foreign Ministry confirmed Lebanon was holding five Red Army suspects, including Kozo Okamoto, a member of a 1972 raid on Tel Aviv's Lod airport that left 26 people dead.

Japan, meanwhile, appeared to accept that it could take years to extradite the suspects from Lebanon to face trial for some of the boldest attacks of the past two decades. Government spokesman Seiroku Kajiyama said Japanese officials had identified the five Lebanese authorities who planned to take their own action against the group before deciding on when they could be extradited.

"At present, we have no idea as to when they would be handed over to us," Mr. Kajiyama told reporters.

Japanese government sources said they now believed it could take up to two years before Lebanon returned the high-profile guerrillas to Tokyo because they could first be tried in Beirut on charges of carrying forged passports.

Lebanon and Japan do not have an extradition treaty.



Reagans celebrate 45 years of marriage

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, passed their 45th wedding anniversary Tuesday at their Bel Air home in Los Angeles. Reagan wed Nancy, his second wife, in Studio City near Los Angeles in 1952. Actor William Holden was his best man. "It doesn't seem like 45 years. I can't imagine life without him or before him," Nancy Reagan said Tuesday. "It's been everything I've ever dreamed marriage would be." Reagan, an ex-Hollywood actor who served as Republican president from 1981 to 1989, celebrated his 86th birthday on Feb. 6. He suffers from Alzheimer's disease, a progressive brain disorder, but continues to go to his office everyday.

Child actor supports family

NEW YORK (AFP) — Child actor Macaulay Culkin can dip into his millionaire earnings as the star of "Home Alone" and other pictures to help his embattled parents make ends meet, a judge here ruled. Macaulay, 16, has put his film career on hold while his unmarried parents Christopher Culkin, 52, and Patricia Brentnup, 42, go through a custody battle for their seven children. The parents, who split in 1995 after a 21-year relationship and whose only money comes from managing their children's acting careers, are unable to keep up payment of their three apartments. So judge David Saxe told Macaulay he could contribute just enough to keep his family from being evicted.

Pope gets a free Mercedes

VATICAN CITY (AFP) — Pope John Paul II confirmed his liking for Mercedes cars and will receive the latest one — for free — on Wednesday, the Vatican announced. The black, top-of-the-line S-500 has been turned into a convertible and outfitted with armour and bullet-proof glass. It will be presented to the pontiff before Wednesday's general audience by the head of the company's Italian subsidiary. Unlike previous popes, who travelled in Fiats, Cadillacs, Chryslers and Citroens, the first Polish Pope has remained faithful to Mercedes since his election in 1978. John Paul was the first Pope to use a white four-wheel-drive open vehicle to drive through crowds in Italy and abroad, earning the vehicle the nickname "Pope-mobile."

OJ 'threatens' towns privacy

INDIAN RIVER SHORES, Florida (AP) — The possibility that O.J. Simpson bought a \$2.2 million oceanfront mansion has many of the 3,000 residents of this upscale community wary of losing their cherished privacy. Newspaper reports of the purchase of a palatial spread in the exclusive mariner village subdivision on this barrier island near Vero Beach unleashed a flood of calls to the town council. "We have gotten calls from a lot of very upset people," town councilman Bob Schoen said. "In their mind he's a murderer and they don't want a murderer living in the town." "It certainly would be disruptive in a little town like ours, a source of very great annoyance," Simpson was acquitted of murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman in June 1994. In February, a civil jury found him responsible for the deaths after families of the victims sued. The jury returned a \$33.5 million judgment against Simpson.

Senator calls for deportation of Jordanian who aided Brooklyn Bridge shooter

NEW YORK (AP) — Senator Alfonse D'Amato says a Jordanian who admits he changed evidence to protect a man who fired at a van of Hasidic students should be kicked out of the country without delay.

"The intent of Congress is clear: people who come to the United States, overstay their visa, and commit a felony should not be allowed to remain in the United States. This case cries out for immediate deportation. To do otherwise, would be a mockery of justice," Mr. D'Amato wrote in a letter to Immigration Judge Gabriel C. Videla.

Mr. Videla is considering the case against Hilal Mohammad, a 34-year-old

illegal immigrant living in Brooklyn.

Mr. D'Amato blasted the sluggish pace of the judicial system as he appeared Tuesday at a news conference with the mother of the youth who was killed in the March 1, 1994 attack.

The senator told Mr. Videla in the letter that he was outraged that Mr. Mohammad had not been deported, despite pleading guilty to hindering prosecution and tampering with evidence in the Brooklyn Bridge shooting.

"Hilal has violated the hospitality of this country by overstaying his visa and by his admitted role in disposing of critical evidence from this vicious attack ...," Mr. D'Amato wrote.

Mr. Mohammad entered the country in 1989 on a two-week tourist visa and never left. He is married and three of his four children were born here.

He has admitted to paying \$100 for a fake social security card, failing to file income tax returns until 1995 and illegally working at several jobs.

Mr. Mohammad pleaded guilty to the charges after prosecutors learned he was working at pioneer car service in Brooklyn when co-worker Rashid Baz rushed in and told him he had fired on the van.

Authorities said Baz ordered Mohammad to repair the windshield of the car service car he had been driving; the windshield was shattered in the

shooting.

Aaron Halberstam, 16, died in the attack. Baz, 30, a Lebanese native, was sentenced to life in prison in January 1995 after he was convicted for that killing and the attempted murder of the other students in the van.

The defence claimed Baz suffered from post-traumatic stress syndrome resulting from experiences in war-torn Beirut. It also argued that he snapped because of the Feb. 25, 1994, massacre of 29 worshippers in a West Bank mosque by a Brooklyn-born Israeli settler.

The van carried 15 students, all dressed in the distinctive black clothing of ultra-orthodox

Lubavitchers.

The immigration judge had told lawyers he wanted to know what knowledge Mr. Mohammad had of Baz's activities before he rules on deporting Mr. Mohammad.

Halberstam's mother, Devora, pleaded for quick action from Judge Videla. She said her son died "right before my eyes. I vowed that the mission of my life would be to bring every person responsible for the death to justice."

She said she believed Mr. Mohammad had "laughed in my face" during court appearances, including his sentencing on the felony charges when he received no jail time in part because the judge thought he would be deported.